Sunday, April 17, 2011 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 138 P30 | www.inquirer.net | Manila Bulletin

'Pabasa in hip-hop OK on road to Easter'

By Philip C. Tubeza

IF THE EFFECT is that a restless street-loving people, the Church is not overly enforcing the more inventive of Christ's Passion rendered to a "hip-hop" cadence during the observance of Holy Week.

"For Christians, Holy Week is the greatest celebration during the whole year of what we call the liturgical year. It is a commemoration or a memorial of the Paschal Mystery which is the suffering, death and glorification of the Lord," said Diocese of Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez.

Iñiguez Catholics—carrying palm leaves (said to be in the shape of crosses—are expected in during the churches today to mark Palm Sunday, commemorating the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the last days before His Passion and crucifixion. Filipinos rush to the blessed palms on windows and doors of their houses to ward off the evil eyes. On the folk craft level, the palm weaving is much like the Japanese native origami in that it showcases the creativity of native artisans. (See story about the palmsyon in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine.)

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tell all, Joc-joc, Cito told

'Where Pope John Paul II goes, best things will be'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MORONG, Bataan—Seven Catholic Nuns Felicitas, 72, and Ida Lorda, 61, can hardly contain their excitement over two much-anticipated events in the first two days of May.

On May 1, the elaborate beatification rites for the late Pope John Paul II will have been completed at the Vatican. The last major step before canonization or sainthood for the much-loved Pontiff. Following which he can be publicly venerated with the title of "Blessed".

Lorda and Francisco were part of the huge crowd of faithfuls—religious and Filipinos who gathered at the Philippine Pro-Nuncio Apostolic Catholic (PNPC) here for the Mass that John Paul celebrated on Feb. 21, when he

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY The shrine commemorating the Man Dad Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass in 1981 is now the pride of Morong, Bataan. It features a statue of the much-loved Pontiff, to be known as "Blessed John Paul II" after his beatification on May 1.

Former agri execs urged to name mastermind

By TJ Burgonio
at Ulmido
Hector P. Bonga Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ONE OF THE would-be jurors of the impeachment trial of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez yesterday said former agriculture officials Luis "Cito" Lorenzo and Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante should tell all they know about the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"I think Bolante and Lorenzo should spill the beans so to the real mastermind of the scam because it sure appears that they are being thrown away like dirty rags after being used to do someone else's dirty work," Sen. Francisco Pangilinan said yesterday.

"Maliwag nakaplag na sila (It looks like they've been left in the lurch)," Pangilinan said of the two men against

Question for Mercy: Where did P1.8-B savings go? | A2

Binay position on RH: Neither here nor there

By DJ Yap

AS ONE WISEASS puts it, it's like advocating for the wearing of a condom but with a hole in it.

So an issue on which ex-Filipino Vice days can afford to be neither hot nor cold, Vice President Jejomar Binay would like to approximate both sides of the reproductive health bill controversy.

Binay said he is both positive and pessimistic in the great debate over the bill, or the proposed Act Providing for a Comprehensive Policy on Responsible

BINAY, A10

Japanese going bananas, also for okra

By Kristine L. Alave

WITH most of their crops already contaminated with radiation, Japan has opted to import more fruit and vegetables from abroad such as bananas from the Philippines.

Agriculture and industry officials said yesterday that Philippine bananas are providing sustenance to the quake and tsunami victims in Japan.

Roberto Amores, president of the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc. (Philfoodex), said the country's bananas and high-value vegetables continued to be in high demand in Japan, which was struck by a devastating quake and tidal waves on March 11.

The country is under threat of a nuclear fallout after a nuclear power plant in Fukushima was damaged by the tsunami. The Fukushima nuclear accident is considered one of the worst nuclear disasters in the world.

Radiation from the crippled nuclear plant has contaminated plants and farms in Fukushima, prompting Japanese importers to buy more exp

JAPANESE, A-9

Police reports conflicting on missing woman with Pilar

By Marlon Ramos
and Kristine Felizze Mangosing

THE FIGHT thickens. The missing woman in the Pilar Pilapil case allegedly visited Pilar's husband at about 1:15 a.m. Friday that she was in a cab and heading for home.

At that time, Pilapil was already confined at The Medical City in Pasig City where she was later taken for treatment of stab wounds inflicted on her by two armed men who held her up and the missing woman last Thursday night.

The list of information was contained in a report of the Makati police on the Pilapil case, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer.

The Makati police identified Pilapil's companion as Hazel Bondoni, a entry to law of Pilapil's husband, Ronnie Belas.

According to a copy of the report, Bondoni

POLICE, A10

NEWS
- Gov't fuel stockpile hailed
- Phivolcs: 20 quakes in Taal
- Melo named to Clark board

WORLD
- Nato running out of bombs
- SIM
- 6 retreat places to clear the mind

ENTERTAINMENT
- Married Actress and Controversial Personality spotted all over town

LIFESTYLE
- Kate and William inviting their exes

Second FRONTPAGE

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2 P.M.
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21 16
14 16
4 4 9
8 6 0

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4 8 10 24 27 29
P3,165,661.80

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
9 18 20 36 40 51
P117,541,412.80

Gov't oil stockpile plan hailed

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to directly import oil to meet any contingency and to put pressure on oil companies to lower their prices is a "bold" move, according to Samar Rep. Ben Evardone.

"This will send a signal to the oil cartel that the government will not allow them to further exploit the oil crisis in the Middle East to jack up their prices out-here! beig," Evardone said.

He was referring to President Aquino's recent announcement about the government's decision to stockpile fuel to build up a strategic oil reserve for use in times of "extraordinary need" through the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC), the oil and coal arm of state-run PNOC.

Aquino said PNOC-EC will build up a strategic diesel reserve not just to ensure the country's energy security but also to help provide competitively priced fuel for the local market.

He said the company's first shipment of 50 million liters of diesel was due to arrive by May, to be stored in two tanks to be leased by PNOC-EC.

Evardone said the continuing turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa has exposed the country's vulnerability to the volatile world oil market and possible disruptions in supply.

"I think the happy days of oil companies are numbered. This move of the government will bring relief to consumers who have been hardest hit by the spiraling cost of fuel, he said.

LPG marketers' proposal

In a related development, Rep. Arnel Ty of the party-list group LPG Marketers' Association (LPGMA) has asked Malacañang to certify as urgent a bill seeking to establish a permanent Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) that would provide a ready supply of fuel products during crisis.

"There is really a need for us to ensure a more controlled emergency stockpile of refined petroleum products, to secure our requirements—estimated at the equivalent of 300,000 barrels of oil per day," said Ty, a member of the House energy committee.

Ty, author of House Bill 4526, lauded President Aquino for moving fast to secure the country's fuel requirements and said shorter days is good to get up a permanent SPR, to be maintained by the PNOC.

Ask Indonesia

Montes that the country could face a shortage of finished petroleum products in the event of a prolonged conflict. The proposed government to obtain assurances from its neighbor, Indonesia, of extra supplies should the need arise in the future.

"The creation of the SPR will allow us to give funds to the country's economic recovery under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Petroleum Security Agreement, which encourages members to build extra stockpiles and forge emergency oil-sharing agreements," Ty said.

At present, the country's oil industry players have a product inventory of up to 45 days, he added.

Other lawmakers, on the other hand, have criticized the Aquino administration for not making windfall profits from the oil price increases.

Cap on VAT backed

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez earlier said that putting a cap on the value-added tax (VAT) could help reduce the price of gasoline. He also said the government's Fuel subsidy was "too inequitarian to make an impact on fuel costs and relief to other sectors of Fuel rules would not benefit from the government's subsidies."

Rodriguez said the tax cap would be a compromise to the standoff between the groups that want a suspension of the VAT on fuel and Malacañang, which has rejected it because of its impact on government revenues.

"By collecting taxes on fuel imports up to 600 per barrel, the government would still meet its revenue goals, while consumers would save 346 per barrel," Rodriguez pointed out.

But Malacañang had said it was worried that a drop in tax collections from oil would create bigger problems for the country.

More quakes felt around Taal volcano

MORE earthquakes and gas emissions have been detected around Taal Volcano, 65 km south of Manila, possibly indicating an eruption is looming, volcanologists said yesterday.

Twenty volcanic quakes were recorded in the 24 hours to 8 a.m. Saturday, compared to 15 quakes in the same period on Friday, indicating that magma is rising to the surface, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

Additionally, the water in the crater of Taal is heating up while the volcano's emissions of carbon dioxide have risen from 3,870 tons per day in February to 4,670 tons at the end of March.

"If this trend continues, we may have to raise the alert level again," said volcanologist Paul Alanis.

Taal Volcano was placed under alert level 2, on a five-level scale, on April 9 following increased volcanic earthquakes, carbon dioxide emissions and steam explosions. Level 2 is described as "alarming" and indicates the rise of magma to the surface, which could eventually lead to an eruption.

'Don't get too close'

Alanis, however, said this did not mean an eruption was imminent, adding that the volcano might yet stabilize.

Nonetheless, Phivolcs warned the public not to get too close to the volcano, and reiterated its earlier warning that the main crater, Daang Kastila Trail and Mt. Tabaro areas were strictly off limits since sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions could take place. Toxic gases in high concentration could also accumulate in these areas.

Permanent danger zone

Phivolcs also warned residents to prepare for evacuation should the volcano show signs of an imminent eruption.

The entire 2,346-ha Volcano Island is normally a permanent danger zone, and people are barred from permanently settling in the area.

The Office of Civil Defense said only 163 of the estimated 7,000 people living there had left.

Taal is one of the most unstable of the country's active volcanoes with 33 recorded eruptions, the last one in 1977. Julie Soberevia, AFP

PH backs new Ivory Coast gov't

THE PHILIPPINES has extended its support to Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) following months of conflict where the defeated presidential candidate refuses to leave his post.

"The Philippine government welcomes the imminent resolution of the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, following the dramatic turn of events on Monday," said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), alluding to the arrest of former President Laurent Gbagbo which paved the way for newly elected President Alassane Ouattara to fully take the reins of government.

The Philippines also expressed support for the call of Ouattara "for normalcy to return to Ivorian life, and for the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to try all cases of abuse committed during the post-election violence," the DFA said in a statement issued on Saturday. — AJ Nip

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Erratum

This is to correct the company name of one of the Bridgestone Tires Outlet, Millennium Tire Corporation, which was misprinted as Millennium Tire Ventures in the Bridgestone Summer Promo Print Ad released last April 15, 2011 in the Main Section, page A6 of this publication."

I'm not out to bring down Revillame, says psychologist

By Lilli B. Saberola

NOTED child psychologist Dr. Ma. Lourdes "Dinky" Canandeng has denied being part of an alleged plot to attack controversial TV host Willie Revillame.

Canandeng said in a statement that when she spoke out about the treatment that a 6-year-old contestant had received in Revillame's game show "Willing Willie," she was merely expressing an opinion solicited by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

In the March 11 episode of the show aired on and reproduced by TV5, the boy manfully performed a "macho dance" to a cheering audience and was later given P10,000 by the wise-cracking Revillame for the effort.

A video of the performance that was uploaded on YouTube drew dismay and outrage from groups advocating women's and children's rights.

TV5 and Revillame have since apologized. The boy's parents also said he had insisted to appear on TV to dance and was crying only because he was terrified by a tall man he saw on the set.

In a letter to the MTRCB, Canandeng said the boy had suffered trauma on the show and called on the board to impose sanctions on Revillame and "Willing Willie."

Boy's parents sue

Last week, the boy's parents filed a libel suit against Canandeng, two bloggers and Abbs and Jane Goes for their statements on the matter.

"In recent days, it has been insinuated by the lawyers of Revillame that I am part of some grand conspiracy to 'bring down' Revillame and his TV program. This is simply not true. I merely expressed an opinion as solicited by the CHR and the MTRCB," Canandeng said in her statement.

She said that in her more than 30 years as a professional, she had worked with groups such as Unicef-Amosup, the Investment Labor Organization, Rockefeller Foundation, ABS-CBN Foundation, and Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education, among others.

Last week, the CHR invited Canandeng to a roundtable discussion on "Willing Willie" so she could share her expertise on child abuse.

ABS-CBN connection

Revillame's lawyer, Leonard de Vera, had earlier questioned the decision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to make Canandeng speak to the boy.

De Vera had said that Canandeng's MGAC Institute for Children and Families was funded by the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN, that she worked for the network, and that her son, Communications Secretary Kitty Canandeng, also used to work for it.

Revillame, who used to host a popular noontime show over ABS-CBN, is embroiled in legal disputes with the network over his move to TV5.

Canandeng denied being part of a concerted action to pin down Revillame.

"The actions I take are mine and are cleared by the members of the MGAC Institute for Children and Families that team. Its mission is to uphold the dignity of the Filipino child and to advocate truth-telling," she said in her statement.

She pointed out that she had been working pro bono with the DSWD for years, and that she had counseled victims of disasters, violence crimes, sexual abuse and other problems.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

APRIL 17 (Sunday)
Psalter Week 1
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1st Reading: Is 50:4-7

The Lord himself has taught me to speak so that I may know how to sustain the weary. Morning after morning he wakes me up to hear, to listen as his disciple. The Lord himself has opened my ear. I have not rebelled, nor have I withdrawn. I offered my back to those who strike me, my cheeks to those who pull out my beard; neither did I shield my face from shame and spittle. But the Lord comes to my help. So, like a flint I set my face, knowing that I will not be disgraced.

2nd Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Though being divine in nature, Christ Jesus did not claim to be equality with God, but emptied himself, taking on the nature of a servant, made in human likeness. And in his appearance found as a man, he humbled himself by being obedient unto death, death on the cross. That is why God exalted him, and gave him the name which somehow all names, in that is the name of Jesus every knee should bend for heaven, on earth and among the dead, and all tongues proclaim that Christ Jesus is the Lord for the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: Mt 26:14-27:66 [or Mt 27:11-54]

Jesus stood before the governor, who asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'You say so.' But chief priests and the elders of the people accused him, but he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you hear all the charges they bring against you?' ... At Passover it was customary for the governor to release any prisoner the people asked for. Now there was a well known prisoner called Barabbas. When they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which one do you want me to set free: Barabbas, or Jesus called the Messiah?' for he realized that Jesus had been handed over to him out of envy.

As Pilate was sitting in court, his wife sent him this message, 'Have nothing to do with that holy man. Because of him, I had a frightful night that disturbed me greatly.'

But the chief priests and the elders of the people stirred up the crowds, to ask for the release of Barabbas and the death of Jesus. When the governor asked them again, 'Which of the two do you want me to set free?' they answered, 'Barabbas!' 'Then what', said Pilate, 'shall I do with Jesus called the Messiah?' All answered, 'Crucify him!' ... Pilate realized that he was getting nowhere, and that there could be a riot. He then asked for water, and washed his hands before the people, saying, 'I am not responsible for his blood. It is your thing.' And all the people answered, 'Let his blood be upon us and upon our children!' Then Pilate set Barabbas free, but had Jesus scourged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus into the palace of the governor and the whole troop gathered around him. They stripped him and dressed him in a purple military cloak. Then, after plaiting a crown of thorns, they forced it over his head, and placed a reed in his right hand. ... When they had finished mocking him, they pulled off the purple cloak and dressed him in his own clothes again, and led him out to be crucified.

On the way they met a man from Cyrene called Simon, and forced him to carry the cross for Jesus. When they reached the place called Golgotha, ... they offered him wine mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it but would not drink it. Then they crucified him, and divided his clothes among themselves. ... The statement of his offence was displayed above his head, and it read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ... People passing by hurled abuse at him, shaking their heads and mocking him. "You who destroy the Temple and in three days rebuild it, save yourself—if you are God's Son—and come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, the elders and the members of the Law mocked him. They said, "He saved others but he cannot save himself. Let the King of Israel now come down from the cross and we will believe in him. ... Even the soldiers who were crucified with him insulted him.

From midday darkness fell over the whole land until mid-afternoon, at about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Then Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

Just then the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; the earth quaked, rocks were split, ... The captain and the others who guarded Jesus were greatly terrified, when they saw the earthquake and all that had happened, and said, "Truly this was God's Son."

Reflection

Lectio

"Though being divine in nature, Christ Jesus did not claim to be equality with God, but emptied himself."

Meditation

Jesus humbled himself to the point of death, even the death on the cross. He was obedient to the will of the Father. He was willing to suffer for the sake of others. He was willing to suffer for the sake of others.

Oratio

Let us allow the Lord to illumine the areas in our life that are difficult to accept so that we may see how they fit into his plan of salvation.

Actio

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Rangers kill 2 Abus in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two members of the Abu Sayyaf were killed while six others—including three soldiers—were wounded in a gun battle in Basilan on Saturday, the military reported.

Col. Alexander Macaria, commander of Task Force Basilan, said Scout Rangers were patrolling in the village of Tong-Tubaculang in Albarkah town when they ran into about 15 Abu Sayyaf fighters led by Nur Jannatul Jamiri.

Jamiri is a notorious Abu Sayyaf leader involved in high-profile abductions in Basilan. He figured in the 2007 ambush killing in Albarkah of 14 Muslims, seven of whom were beheaded.

"The slain Abu Sayyaf were the body count. We suffered three wounded in action—all members of the 4th Scout Ranger Battalion," he said.

Macaria said the Rangers recovered one M14 and three M16 rifles, an M203 grenade launcher and assorted explosives from the clash site.

The Abu Sayyaf is a band of self-styled Islamists that gained notoriety with its kidnapping and bombing activities. It has links to the Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Last week, suspected terrorists bombed a lodging house in Lamitan township, north of Albarkah.

No one was injured by the homemade bomb.

Macaria said intelligence reports indicated the Abu Sayyaf were planning to bomb schools, mall book and gun centers in Basilan.

Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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P-Noy appoints ex-Comelec chief to Clark board

By TJ Burgonio

THREE MONTHS after serving from the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Jose Melo will be sitting on the board of Clark Development Corp. (CDC).

President Aquino has appointed Melo and several others to the board of CDC, which reportedly came under investigation over the extensive perks of its executives, Aquino presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said yesterday.

Melo retired from the Comelec in mid-January.

Also appointed by Mr. Aquino were Court Sheriff Jaime Hernandez, Ricardo Bayot, Manuel Pelicano and Nimrod Bondoc, Valte said.

In a House inquiry last December, the Commission on Audit disclosed that CDC president Benigno Bicaldo's office received P14.506 million in salaries and allowances in 2009 alone.

P18 million for intelligence fund

The amount was broken down into P18 million extraordinary expense, P1 million basic salary and the rest in representation and transportation and clothing allowance, etc.

Bicaldo assumed that the P18 million was used as an intelligence fund to ensure the safety of investors in the 30,000-hectare free port.

Valte also confirmed that Renato Bantug, a corporate lawyer from the Aquino family Concepcion Bagala and Cruz Ute and law office, had been appointed chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Valte said Mr. Aquino also appointed new administrators of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) which, like CDC, was investigated for its executive perks.

Named were Rafael Reyes as administrator and chief executive officer replacing Armand Arreza, and Roberto Garcia as chair of the board vice Feliciano Salonga.

An EO to prevent corruption

The other SBMA appointees were Alfonso Diokno and Wilfredo Pineda.

President Aquino last year directed the Department of Budget and Management to craft an executive order putting a cap on the perks of officers of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Memorandum Order No. 20 in June 2001 to control the compensation and benefits of GOCC executives and employees, but apparently this was not implemented.

The other appointees were to the Department of Tourism: Myra Hontiveros as undersecretary, Marin Gonzales Zalsos, as senior secretary, and Mary Jane Bugarin, acting regional director.

House bill will make hospitals list prices

By Cynthia D. Balana

HOUSED by your medical bills? The House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading a measure requiring all hospitals and clinics to post a price list of all their services, incidental expenses and medical supplies in a conspicuous place on their premises.

"The price list should be easily accessible to the general public, without the need of any further inquiry," said Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, principal author of the bill.

House Bill 4308, otherwise known as the Healthcare Services Price Disclosure Act of 2011, requires all healthcare facilities to make their price list available to any patient or their representative so that patients could adequately exercise their option to choose a healthcare facility.

Romulo said the measure seeks to provide transparent, accessible and reliable information on the prices of healthcare services, including incidental expenses and all items that can be found in the medical bill of a patient.

The price list of healthcare services shall be binding on the healthcare facility upon the admission of the patient. It prohibits change in rates should not allow patients admitted prior to the posting of the increase in price," Romulo said.

GMA's health bill

The bill penalizes healthcare facilities that either fail to post a price list or post outdated, inaccurate, inadequate price lists of healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies.

Another health-related bill would provide coverage to bus, jeepney, taxi and tricycle drivers in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

House Bill 4348, filed by Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her son, Lo-manters Sar Rep. Dimdadato Arroyo, seeks to provide mandatory health insurance coverage for all public utility drivers all over the country in the NHIP under the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth).

"Being on the road for more than 12 hours every day and driving even way past midnight, there is an urgent need to provide a mandatory health insurance package for our thousands of public utility drivers who deliver millions of our commuters to their points of destination," Arroyo said.

Medical care for underprivileged

She said it was the government's policy to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to healthcare for all Filipinos and to provide medical care to the underprivileged as embodied in Republic Act No. 7875, also known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995.

"The program covers accessible and progressive social health insurance and affordable quality health care services readily accessible to all Filipinos," she said.

Arroyo said that RA 7875 provides a system wherein the poor can avail of health services through their membership in the NHIP.

Philhealth, she stressed, sets the standards, rules and regulations necessary to ensure quality of care, appropriate utilization of services, fund viability, member satisfaction, and overall accomplishment of program objectives specified in RA 7875.

"The law specifically provides that accessibility to these health care services are accorded all Filipinos with priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children," Arroyo said.

PROTESTING TO THE END Graduating students of the College of Arts and Letters at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, staged a lightning rally on stage during recognition rites held yesterday on the UP Film Center. Protest actions usually occur during graduation rites at the state university. President Aquino will be the commencement speaker at today's graduation ceremonies on the UP Diliman campus. —LEONARDO TRIO JR. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Palace: Lakas statements confusing

MALACAÑANG yesterday bristled at former president turned Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's tirades against the Aquino administration.

"You know, we're confused by the claims of a vacuum in leadership," said Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte in an interview over government-run Radyo ng Bayan.

"There appears to be confusion among the Lakas leadership because their statements don't match. The other day they denounced a brutal attack. Now they're saying critical cooperation. So we don't know what's happening inside Lakas," Valte said.

Arroyo, one of the leaders of the opposition Lakas party, had said the government was bent for a "vacuum of leadership" as shown by Pres. dent Aquino's failure to squarely address serious economic and security issues.

Her true party stance in the House, however, backtracked on an earlier threat to resume a "frontal assault" against the Aquino administration.

Valte also took exception to Arroyo's claim that the Aquino administration was trying to demonize her.

"We can't avoid addressing problems in the previous administration because we inherited those problems, and we can only talk of the problems that President Aquino inherited on June 30 last year," she said. —TJ BURGONIO

Workers to get twice the pay on holy days

By Philip C. Tubeza

EMPLOYEES who report for work on Holy Thursday and Good Friday should get double their pay, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said yesterday.

Baldoz said President Aquino had declared in Proclamation No. 169 issued on Dec. 20, 2010, that Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were regular holidays nationwide.

Since these two days are "among the Filipino people's most cherished and solemn holidays," Baldoz said employers should "see to it that some labor standards ... are properly applied in the workplace these days."

"If either or both Maundy Thursday, April 21, or Good Friday, April 22, are worked, the employee is entitled to 200 percent of his or her basic wage for the first eight hours of the holiday falls on the employee's regular workday," Baldoz said in a statement.

Employees working beyond eight hours are entitled to an additional 30 percent of their hourly rate, she said.

If an employee does not report for work, he or she would still be entitled to 100 percent of the regular daily rate, provided he or she was present, or was on leave with pay, on the workday immediately preceding the holiday.

Baldoz said if the day is the employee's rest day and he still goes to work, he is entitled to the first eight hours to "200 per cent of his or her daily rate plus 30 percent."

"And for work in excess of 8 hours, he plus 30 percent of his or her hourly rate on that day," she said.

If unworked, the employee is entitled to 100 percent of his or her regular rate, provided he or she was present, or was on leave with pay, on the workday immediately preceding the holiday.

"Finally, in case the day immediately preceding the holiday is a non-work day, or is the scheduled rest day of the employee, the employee shall not be deemed on leave on that day, in which case he or she shall be entitled to the holiday pay," Baldoz said.

Those with inquiries can call the Department of Labor and Employment Call Center at hotline 2937 (one) (dot) or TM mobile phones, 0908-917 (two) (four) (four) hot photos for free, or send a text message to 2930.

They can also call or visit their DOLE Regional Office or call the Bureau of Working Conditions at trunkline 527-8000, local 300.

P400-M trade facility to rise in Benguet

THE COUNTRY'S "salad bowl" will soon have its own wholesale trading and processing facility to help farmers by speeding up the trade in vegetables and fruits.

The P400-million Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (APTC) to be put up in Benguet is expected to be completed before yearend, according to Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala.

In a statement, Alcala said the facility would be the biggest and most modern agricultural wholesale trading and processing center in the country. It will house a modern processing facility that will turn vegetables into ready-to-cook "chop suey" packs, veg table chips and snacks.

The facility will rise on a 4-hectare lot in La Trinidad, Benguet and will be funded jointly by the Department of Agriculture, the provincial and municipal governments of Benguet and La Trinidad, and Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan. The modern processing facility will be financed with a P2.3-million grant from the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

Alcala said the center would complement the existing trading post near the La Trinidad Municipal Hall. It is expected to make the trading process—from unloading to the payment of delivered items—faster. It will also lessen incidents of spoilage and wastage, he added.

The Benguet APTC was designed by the Development Academy of the Philippines. It will feature three large trading areas, cold storage, a solid waste treatment facility, a clinic, and lounge, a cafeteria, a commercial or cooperative bank, an administration office, and offices for farmers' cooperatives. —Leila B. Salaverria

Enrile: No laws broken in PLDT-Digitel merger

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) did not violate any laws when it purchased Digitel Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel), owner of the Sun Cellular brand, since the Philippines did not have an anti-trust law.

"We have an anti-trust law in the Revised Penal Code but it is toothless," Enrile said.

"Whatever a law-driven man an entrepreneur," he added.

Enrile said that while PLDT and Digitel were private companies, the public interest was involved because they were also public utilities.

The senator said there was no need to ask Congress for another franchise for the merger nor was there a need for Congress approval of the transfer of ownership because both PLDT and Digitel already had their own franchises.

Enrile said the Digitel and Sun franchises had a provision stating that any condition or privilege granted to succeeding grantees of franchises – better or more than what was provided for in the franchises – would be enjoyed by the grantee, meaning Sun or Digitel.

Subsequent franchises granted by Congress for telecommunications provide that the prior approval of Congress was not needed in a transfer of ownership if the buying entity operated under its franchise, he said.

"Digitel has a franchise, PLDT and Smart also have franchises. What happened is that PLDT bought the shares of stocks of the Gokongwei group. Gokongwei is just an investor, a shareholder of this corporation, he is not the holder of the franchise. He was not selling the franchise. He was selling the business that he owns, he was selling his shares of stocks in Smart and PLDT," Enrile explained.

The 399.61 billion deal between PLDT and Digitel was announced on March 29. Under the deal, PLDT agreed to acquire 51.55 percent of Digitel and undertake a mandatory tender offer to minority investors.

The mega-deal has raised concerns among some sectors that it would stifle competition in the lucrative telecoms market and result in a spike in the price of telecommunications services.

Digitel is the third-ranked mobile phone company after PLDT and Globe. When it offered incidental text and calls, it ran into the pool's margins of the largest players.

Skyway users get 1-day reprieve

SKYWAY operator Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) will defer the implementation of the elevated highway's new toll rates to Tuesday, April 26, so as not to create confusion among motorists returning from the Lenten holidays.

The toll hike—from a flat rate of P60 to graduated rates of up to P187 for Alabang—to—Makati private motorists—was originally scheduled for April 25. Easter Monday. CMMTC said it moved back the rate hike by one day so that motorists coming home from Holy Week vacations would not be surprised by the new rates.

"They took into consideration that some motorists would be returning to Manila from the provinces. The deferment of rates will be done to avoid confusion and surprise for those who are not yet aware of the new rates," Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) spokesperson Julius Corpuz said.

Earlier last week, the TRB approved the toll rates for the recently completed section of the Metro Manila Skyway that extends to Sucat and Alabang Four Seasons.

For the Skyway's elevated portion, class 1 vehicles (cars and jeepneys) will have to pay P60 from Makati to Buendia, another P45 to go to Sucat and an additional P45 all the way to Alabang, for a total of P147.

On the Skyway's ground level, class 1 vehicles will pay P44 from Magallanes to Buendia, plus P31 to Sucat, and another P31 to Alabang for a total of P106.

The rates are multiplied by two for class 2 vehicles (light trucks and buses) and by three for class 3 vehicles (heavy trucks).

The rates for the Skyway replace the current "open system" used in the elevated portion, wherein class 1 vehicles paid a flat rate of P82 for the entire length of the road. The extension of the Skyway all the way to Alabang now operates under this formula.

The rates approved by the TRB are lower by 13 percent than the rates proposed by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., which operates the Skyway.

Motorists that drive straight to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), which is where the Skyway ends in Alabang, will have to pay toll at the ways to Calamba, Laguna.

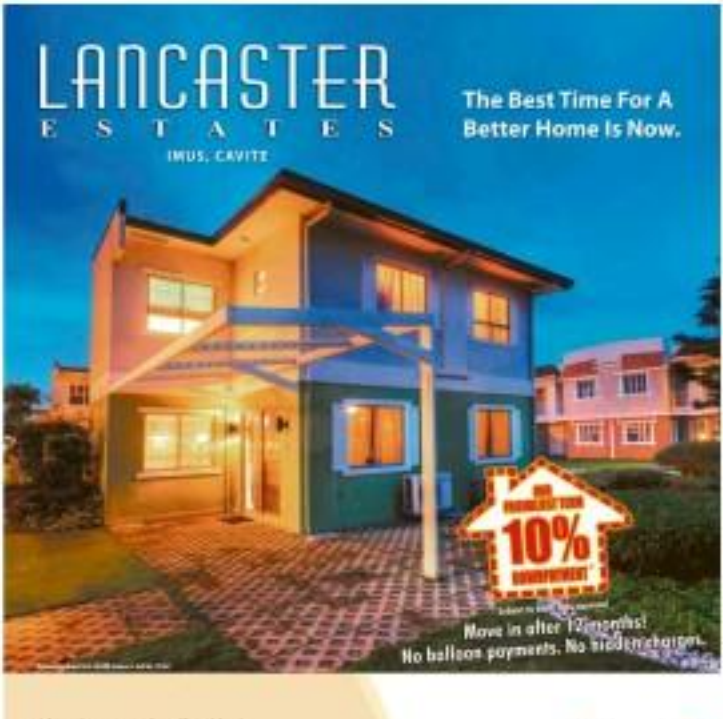
SLEx toll from Alabang to Calamba is P82 for class 1, P123 for class 2 and P328 for class 3 vehicles.

Meanwhile, the TRB also approved new toll rates for the extension of the Manila-Cavite Expressway (Cavitex Project), commonly known as the Coastal Road.

The TRB said the new 8.1 extension of the Coastal Road, from Zapote, Las Piñas, to Kawit, Cavite, will charge a toll of P68 for class 1, P118 for class 2, and P174 for class 3 vehicles. The new toll on Coastal Road will start on May 1.

The TRB said groups may file petitions to have the rates reviewed within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the rates.

Jhaziel G. Monteville



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DA sees hope in brown rice, NFA in hybrid

BAGUIO CITY—Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala on Thursday urged farmers in northern Luzon, including tillers of Cordillera's rice terraces, to produce more brown rice (also known as unpolished rice) to strengthen the country's food security and end rice importation.

Alcala also encouraged the public to eat more brown rice, instead of the white variety that many Filipinos consume.

Discussing policy into well-milled white grains requires large amounts of fuel and equipment, and machines excessively damage the grains, he said.

This is not the case for unpolished rice which requires a less extensive milling process, Alcala said in a dialogue with farmers from different provinces at the University of the Philippines-Baguio. Most of these farmers, who represent the umbrella organization Philippine Misereor Partners of Northern Luzon, have ventured into organic production.

In the Cordillera, farmers began planting organic rice this month. Dengaan and Mr. Florence farmers grow Intsweet rice, Kalinga tillers produce unoy and Ifugao's own red rice grow Unirorot.

"The grain recovery rate for polished rice ranks at only 65 percent, but the recovery rate for unpolished rice is between 75 and 85 percent. That economic alone means the farming needs is over. We won't need imported rice," Alcala said.

"If every Filipino consumes brown rice, we won't have to import. Ironically, for people who arrive harder to survive, they are the ones who eat less brown rice. Refrigerate low-cost brown rice," Alcala said.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) began campaigning for efficient rice production and consumption this month.

During a campaign in Nueva Ecija on March 30, Assistant Secretary Bernie Anneliza, DA operational program coordinator for rice and corn, displayed a projection map detailing rice targets for every region from 2011 to 2016.

In the Cordillera, for example, DA expects farmers to produce an estimated 20.6 million metric tons (MT) of organic rice this year. By 2016, Cordillera production should reach 56 million MT, DA documents showed.

To achieve these targets, farmers asked Alcala for rice milling facilities, greenhouses for organic vegetables and slaughterhouses for their live tanga chicken and native pigs.

"We need to know the number of sacks milled and how many hectares are harvested. If we see that you can produce enough, we will grant you your rice mills [for investors]," Alcala told the farmers.

In Nueva Ecija on Friday, Lito Banayo, administrator of the National Food Authority (NFA), pushed the production of hybrid rice to stabilize domestic supply and reduce the need to import rice.

Banayo attended a harvest festival in Barangay San Juan, in Ilfugo (now that was sponsored by grain company, SL Agritech. Provincial Agriculturist Maria Elena "Bally" Aquino Cruz and farmers Carmen "Pinky" Aquino-Abellada also joined the festivities. Elmer Kristian Bendijo, Inquirer Northern Luzon, with a report from Armand Galang, Inquirer Central Luzon

Police say they foiled new kidnap in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY... Police yesterday said they have foiled a new kidnapping attempt with the arrest of five gunmen here.

Supt. Jimmy Reyes, city police district, said police suspects were on board a blue Nissan Patrol sports utility vehicle and were seen suspiciously roaming the city past midnight on Thursday when they were arrested by soldiers and police.

He identified the suspects as Marshal Hussin, Jamiri Lagista Mada, Nancy Mandal, Dapeng Mandal and Mubarak Ampatuan, all residents of Sitio Mapaiyo-pos in Gumadiao, Maguindanao.

Reyes said the gunmen yielded an unlicensed .45 pistols and two hand grenades when inspected by Marines and police-were marooning in the city's 5th district at the corner of Sinsuat Avenue and Datumanda Street.

He said security had been tightened here in the aftermath of renewed kidnapping and amid intelligence reports that kidnap gang members would strike again anytime. Edwin Fernandez and Aelle Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

CONTESTANTS gather at Pedro's side Park in Legazpi City for the Bodbod Pugo, Tutu-Gata, a competition on coconut milk extraction

Coco milk extraction draws cheers, laughter

By Tey H. Maol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Pan lovers brandished their weapons—coconut grater (kudkuran) and kalikpol to name extraction (pugo) of coconut milk (gata) at Magayon Festival's fourth Kadbod Pugo, Tutu-Gata competition 2011.

Their formed groups that competed for cash prizes aside from lots of fun and socializing cheers.

On its fourth year, the event has been organized by Bgy. Dharo Orbita, a rural-urban barangay and also an advocate of healthy lifestyle and the smoke-free campaign in Albay.

Jose Narzuse, a resident of Cotmlig town, told the Inquirer that he always looked forward to the festival. "Since the attraction of the month-long Magayon festival every April.

"I have been regularly joining this event and it is very funny we spend the whole morning in there. What can we, everyone goes home with smiles on their faces," he said.

Narzuse, an embalmed woman of principal Amelia Fernandez's husband with coconut milk and hot pepper) said cultivations were such opening coconuts and scraping them with the kudkuran, a coconut grater made of a metal spoof with tiny teeth on its tip to grate coconut meat for squeezing into milk.

Orbita recalled the coconut grating event became popular among US soldiers in 1000 when an American was

HOMETOWN Snapshot

Dispatch to the Inquirer Orbita recalled the coconut grating event became popular among US soldiers in 1000 when an American was

"It was very Funny," said Orbita.

The Bodbod Pugo Tutu-Gata was open to all ages, gender and origin. Each contestant was asked to bring his own kudkuchar.

The contest had four categories starting with 70 participants.

In the end, Ronel Robles, of Barangay Gabawan, Daraga, Albay was declared winner, producing a packet of coconut milk extract and recording 0% oil.

Orbita did not make it to the final round but she still went home with a smile.

Employers back tax cuts, not wage hikes

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Group, targeted or reduce taxes on government products but don't raise wages.

Employers' groups here took this position amid a growing clamor for government to raise wages to help the poor cope with the effects of a continuing increase in oil prices.

Joe Marie Agrisai, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Iloilo Inc. (CCII), said the government should remove the 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) on petroleum products to keep fuel prices from further increasing.

The CCII is composed of at least 40 employers' groups in the city.

"We believe that this is an option that the government should take because oil price increase is continuing," Agrisai told the Inquirer on Tuesday.

Other business groups, including the Iloilo Multi-Sectoral Business Organization Inc. (IMSBO) composed of at least 13 business organizations, and the Iloilo Business Club (IBC) also supported the removal of VAT on petroleum products.

"Everybody will benefit from the VAT removal," said Gadelia Cua, IMSBO secretary in a phone interview on Wednesday.

President Aquino earlier announced that the government was not keen on removing the VAT on petroleum products because this would mean a loss of at least P1 billion a month for government.

The President said instead of removing VAT on petroleum, the government was putting together a subsidy program that would reduce the cost of fuel for public transport operators.

Militants, however, criticized the plan as just a stop-gap measure.

Members of the wage board in the Western Visayas region said a wage increase may be necessary.

Employers here said increasing wages was not the correct response to price increases.

Agrisai said employers, not just workers, are hurting from oil price increases. "Production and other costs have also increased," he said.

Labor groups in Western Visayas are pressing for an increase of P97 to P99 in daily minimum wage from the current P385 per day.

Nemsie Sanchez, labor representative to the wage board of Western Visayas, said a wage increase was more than justified to allow workers to cope with oil prices that have gone up from P58.50 per liter of diesel in January to at least P62.25 per liter in March.

Lani Shelmerdine oil firms imposed an additional P1.50 to P1.75 per liter increase.

Sanchez said the actual value of the P260 daily minimum wage dropped from P188 in August to just P154 in March.

Regional wage boards are currently determining if there are "supervening conditions" to justify wage increases.

"What more proof do we need to show supervening conditions?" Sanchez said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

He said labor groups were gearing for protest actions to press their demand for a wage increase.

"What more proof do we need to show supervening conditions?"

TOMAS LEONOR reads a map of Sicogon Island while he rests before crossing the San Juanico Bridge on Tuesday, April 12.

Man walks alone to raise funds for cancer kids

By Nestor S. Libre
Inquirer Visayas

PEOPLE

TACLOBAN CITY—After taking 600,000 steps, he finally arrived in San Juanico Bridge after nine days of walking on Samar Island, a retired secretary.

Rifled environmentalist Tomas Leonor walked 211 km from the north to the south of Samar Island to finish the Samar Island leg of the Step Asia Feel Filipinas adventure 2011, a one-man walking expedition in six islands in the Visayas to raise awareness and funds for children with cancer.

The 56-day Visayas leg of Step Asia cancer Samar, Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, Negros and Panay, culminates Sagcon Boracay Island on May 28.

The 1,179-km walk aims to raise cancer awareness and funds for the Philippine Children's Medical Center "Kanser Pangkabuhayan" Program for indigent cancer patients.

Last year, Leonor, 59, walked for 48 days from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, in the north of Luzon to Bantay, Aurora, in the south, generating P1.2 million in donations.

The Visayas leg started on April 3 in Allen town, Northern Samar. But the first two days were difficult since he didn't have any police escort.

Leonor started late at 10:30 a.m. and traveled 15 km to the adjacent town of San Isidro where he stayed overnight. The next day he covered 55 km to Calbayog.

"It was hard for me to be walking alone," he said.

Leonor said he was conscious of relief presence in Samar. But what bothered him most was boredom since he was walking alone. He even thought of quitting and going home.

His relatives, where he kept his books and clothes, also broke in Calbayog. He sent one into two backpacks to keep his clothes and other personal items like diary and maps. He would stop at stores to buy food and water.

Getting police escorts last Wednesday (April 6) spoke enabling him to cover more: 58 km from Calbayog to San Jorge town, Western Samar.

"The Philippine National Police is very supportive of this project, and they provide security and assistance in every town that I pass by," Leonor said.

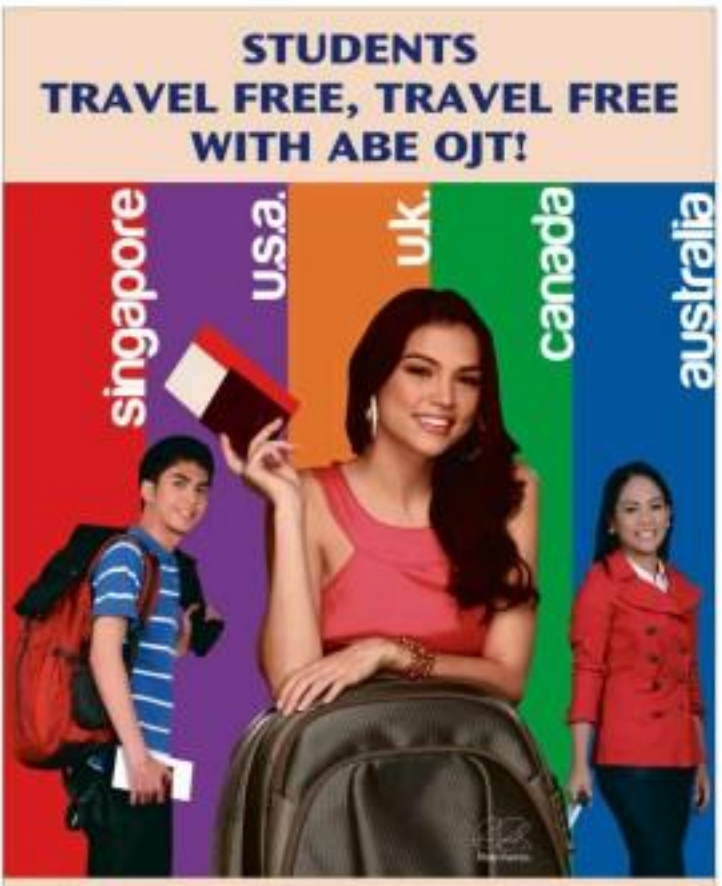
Last year, then PNP chief Gen. Jesse Velasco donated P1 million to the Step Asia project.

Leonor averaged about 30 km a day. He rested the whole day of April 10, in Dolores, Eastern Samar.

He spent the night either at police stations or Oriental homes.

Leonor reached the Samar side of the provincial San Juanico Bridge, a 2.2-km bridge that connects Samar and Leyte islands, in San Bera, Samar, about 11 a.m. on April 12.

Before crossing the bridge, San Bera Mayor Leonardo Rian Abello gave a check of P25,000 in donation.



FARMERS harvesting their tobacco leaves as it is the peak of tobacco season in Isabela. Tobacco remains to be the primary cash crop in the region. LAWRENCE AGUSTIN/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Comelec prepares for ARMM polls, cleanses voter's list

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has started removing fictitious names on the list of voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) amid uncertainty over whether the August elections in the region will push through or not.

Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes, in a radio interview yesterday, said the poll body will continue preparing for the August elections in the ARMM while the Senate hasn't deliberated on House Bill (HB) No. 4146, which seeks to postpone elections in the region and hold them simultaneously with mid-term national elections in 2013.

"Our preparations have been ongoing, including the revision of the election registration board that cleanses the voter's list," Brillantes said.

The House, before going on a recess, passed HB No. 4146 that would synchronize the ARMM elections with the 2013 national and senatorial elections.

It also empowers President Aquino to appoint caretakers for positions that would be vacant in the regional government where the terms of its incumbents officials end on Sept. 30 this year.

"One of our major concerns now is the cleansing of the voters' lists for ARMM," Brillantes said, referring to several lists many registrants who listed up the

ARMM is composed of the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Wherein these provinces will select a regional governor, vice governor and one candidate in each legislative district to become members of the Regional Legislative Assembly.

The region has been known as the shooting capital in the country's electoral exercises, which prompted the Comelec to be determined to push for more electoral reforms ahead of the ARMM elections, if they push through.

Brillantes said the Comelec is pushing for automated elections similar to last year's national and local elections. With Fortunato, Inquirer Mindanao

Price war looms between tobacco farmers, buyers

[illegible], La Union—Despite tobacco in all its a bumper harvest this year because of good weather. But looming in the horizon is a price war between farmers on the one hand and the government and cigarette manufacturers on the other.

Members of Ilocos Exploration, a military farmers group, said they are demanding a buying price of P120 a kilogram for top grade Virginia tobacco, more than P60 of the price agreed recently in a tripartite meeting.

They are shooting for the moon, a top government official said of the asking price.

Antilio Daoanan, Ilocos Exploration chair, said the P120 that the group is demanding is the true reflection of the farmers' capital and labor cost.

Daoanan said the continuing increase in prices of chemical inputs and fuel make the P60 buying price unrealistic. Tobacco farmers, he said, are being exploited.

Napoleon Taverde, a tobacco farmer in Barangay Nagsabaran here, said farmers like him should be receiving more.

Taverde, who cultivates a two-hectare plot with his father, said the P60 buying price has been the rate for the past years.

But government and cigarette manufacturers said they could not afford the P120 sought by farmers.

"It's always nice to hear farmers ask for better prices but they are asking for the moon," said Ilocos Norte Rep. Eric Singson, who has been negotiating for tripartite congress to determine the tobacco buying price for nationals.

"The current price is P60 to P65 a kg for unscented tobacco and I have not heard a single complaint," Singson said. "If you ask for the moon, the cigarette manufacturers might just import tobacco. We are members of the WTO [World Trade Organization]. They can do that."

Chris Nelson, Philippine manager of Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corp. (PMFTC), said the buying price depends on the quality of leaves.

Nelson, who said more farmers are going into tobacco production this year, declined to comment on the demands of Ilocos Exploration.

He, however, said there are 63,000 tobacco farmers in tobacco growing areas in Northern Luzon and his organization believed that they are satisfied with the returns on their labor. With reports from Chonalyn Peñaranda, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Ground cracks alarm Taal island villagers

By Marvin Sy Lumibao
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MENDEZ CITY—Residents of two villages near the Taal Volcano Island alerted authorities about cracks on the ground in their communities that they said have grown bigger.

Cracks on the ground in the villages of Talaga and Poblacion in San Nicolas, Batangas were at least an inch wide on Tuesday, according to Benito Mayuga, executive secretary of town Mayor Epifanio Amalaval.

"The cracks have become bigger," said Mayuga.

Representatives from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and the engineering department of the municipal government measured the cracks on Thursday.

Mayuga said it has yet to be determined if the cracks were caused by the liquefaction in the town or due to the tectonic nature of Taal volcano.

The population in Talaga is 138 and Poblacion has 2,122 people.

At least eight families were evacuated to the San Nicolas public market where Taal started becoming restive.

A total of six villages are within the Taal Volcano Island. These are Talaga, San Isidro and Balanoy in Talaga town; Gen. Aguinaldo and Bulang Sirit in San Nicolas town; and Calauit in Balete town.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jim Rondaveil
Bureau Chief/Manob. Alcantara

ILIGAN call it a dedication, but this health worker in ARMM simply does her job administering eye drops to children as if it weren't getting her hand wet.

Eye-opening health care in ARMM gives blind hope

A SURVIVOR of many armed hostilities in Sulu, 50-year-old Sulfa Mitmar Mundyo had been blind for 10 years. Her hope to see the beauty of the world again kindled when relatives informed her that an eye clinician was being mounted.

The regional health secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) himself, Dr. Emil Sinsuding, performed the operation on Mundyo in Barangay Lamion, Sumisip.

The woman could not help but cry when the patch over her eye was finally removed. One by one, she saw and recognized her neighbors and members around her.

A nephew, Anuy Ilgi, Her Salalani was reported that he hugged Sinsuding and getting Gov. Anandato Sakilang of the ARMM "for coming over and giving light to my aunt's eyes."

"You are like a speck of light in the darkness enough to give hope to the hopeless and bring happiness to the poor," Salalani said after the eye operation.

"My aunt had lost hope and once told me she would die without seeing my face," Salalani said.

Other problems

Another woman who had been blind for eight years, Rhayan Jaslan, braved the operation on both eyes despite what many doctors had observed that her situation was beyond help because of obesity and hypertension.

But Sinsuding and his team of eye experts were convinced that Jaslan, a 53-year-old resident of Malabang, Lanao Sur province, would pull through.

"I'm so happy you came. I've been praying for eight years for the restoration of my vision. I will keep praying that many like me can see the beauty of the world, too," she said while looking around and crying to identify people.

Mundyo and Jaslan were among the 3,000 fully or partially blind from across the ARMM who benefited from the "Ophthalmology Package (OPP)" program of the region's Department of Health (DOH).

Ability to read

Sinsuding said for to six hours after undergoing an eye operation, the patient exhibits dramatic improvement where he or she can see or read.

In one postoperation, a patient started jumping and yelling, like in biblical stories, telling everyone: "I can see now. I can see clearly now, thank God, thank God!"

"It touches one's heart to see your people reacting just like that when their vision is restored," said Sinsuding, a practicing ophthalmologist-opticist.

Blindness has become a prevalent disability in the ARMM, affecting 32,800 in both eyes from among a population of 4 million. Of these, some are severely 10 percent of which the majority may be prevented through cataract and sophthalmic surgery.

Those with low vision (20/120 to 20/200 with further chart) are far more with a prevalence of almost 3.2 percent.

Blindness prevention

The government's Prevention Blindness Program, which aims to eliminate the number of blindness in the region, has remained unsupported since 2008 due to absence of available ophthalmologists and the prohibitive cost of ophthalmic surgical procedures. (In recent, the ARMM has only two government ophthalmologists, including Sinsuding.)

A cataract operation costs as much as P40,000 per eye in most urban areas.

But a DOH-ARMM beautiful project called "Kusuma Mital Sweetsary Ophthalmology Package (DOH-OPP)" along with Sinsuding's successful charity operations, the Basic 20/20 cataract charities project, offers free ophthalmic services right in areas that have never been visited by specialists due to the armed conflict.

All sophisticated ophthalmic equipment used during the conduct of the DOH-OPP are owned by Sinsuding. "This is my Company, my mission is my billion pesos Muslim," he said, reluctantly acknowledging that the equipment were used for free.

Other services

The DOH-OPP, a unique health outreach program and perhaps the only one in the country that addresses the often neglected services long sought in many isolated and difficult areas, offers other services.

Working with acting Governor Sihing, municipal and regional officials, the program also includes Optha Tell Tebid (Specialized consultancy), Optha Tebid/Optha Tell (cataract surgeries), Optha Ngiti (handicapped patient surgical counselor), Optha Tapple (dental services counselor), IM Cat-scan (prevention of planned pregnancy and safe motherhood), and "date of Dialysis (health care and counseling).

"The right to sight saved not for debasement in the halls of justice can somehow be restored to the lowest of the land. If you have yourself seen any educational campaign or realize the difficulty of scanning the streets with your eyes closed, then the right to sight must be seriously appreciated," Sinsuding said.

He said the list of blind people waiting to be served is getting longer each year.

"Restoring back the sight of one old person can only restore their senses of vanities, but the quality of those who once played an important part in making the history of our region," he said.

Sinsuding said the national leadership must exert further political will to cope with the lost years of people suffering from avoidable blindness.

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WILLIAM & KATE's
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April 28, 11:45 p.m.
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April 29
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Enjoy front row seats during the 8-hour live telecast from London.
Includes background stories, inside scoops and tell-all interviews.

THE DAY AFTER SPECIAL
April 30, Aksyon TV Ch. 41, 7:00 p.m.
Featuring highlights from the Royal Wedding.

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NEWS 5

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The Bride & Her Prince

Kasalang Royal

April 29

Reporting LIVE from LONDON
Cheri Mercado, Shawn Yao and Cheryl Cosim
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Get up close and personal with our insider's look on the Royal Wedding

AKSYON TV 3:00 p.m.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Overdue charges

SOMEHOW, JUSTICE delayed can become justice prevented.

On April 13, 2011, the first criminal charges arising from the so-called fertilizer scam were made official, with the Office of the Ombudsman filing a case against Senegene Gen. Raul Lee and two of his underlings for the overpriced purchase of over P3-million worth of fertilizer in 2004. The Ombudsman acted on a resolution dated Nov. 24, 2008. It had taken the Ombudsman more than two years to approve it.

EDITORIAL

Then days later, the Ombudsman ordered that plunder cases be filed against former Agriculture Secretary Luis Ramon Lorenzo and the central figure in the scam, former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, and a host of others. It is alleged that some P728 million, allotted for the purchase of fertilizer to help farmers increase their harvests, was diverted and wound up bankrolling the reelection bid of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the campaign of her allies in 2004.

Ever since the scam first came to light, there have been persistent calls for the filing of charges against any and all of the people behind it. Bolante, known to be a close associate of then First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and whose name has become synonymous with the fertilizer scam itself, ran away from the ensuing investigations conducted by the Senate and House of Representatives by taking refuge in the United States in December 2005. He stayed there until he was deported back to the Philippines by the US government on Oct. 28, 2008.

Meanwhile, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez was seen to be standing idly by instead of properly investigating the case and filing the appropriate charges. In fact, the fertilizer scam is said to be just one of the highlights on the long list of high-profile corruption scandals—involving millions even billions of pesos—that broke out under the past administration. Gutierrez, an appointee of President Arroyo, is said to have slept on these cases for an inordinate period of time. In fact, as the Ombudsman since 2005, Gutierrez has been blamed for the slowing down of Ombudsman investigations to a glacial pace, leading to a sharp decline in successful prosecutions as well as a sudden uptick in the number of plea bargains, all evidence of a dismal performance.

Shouldn't this sudden "paroxysm of action" on the part of the Ombudsman be a welcome development?

Unfortunately for Gutierrez, it is not to the. And things look a turn for the worse with her when the said tutorial. Garcia plea bargain burst into the open. Already weighed down under the burden of a negative public image, she now finds herself fighting for her professional life. The House of Representatives has called for her impeachment for betrayal of the public trust, precisely because of her dubious overall performance. Her Senate trial starts this coming May.

A defiant Gutierrez has decried the impeachment complaint as baseless and said she will not leave her post until her term ends in 2012. President Aquino, who anchored his 2010 election campaign on an anti-corruption platform, has been reported to have declared that Malacañang is now "at war" with the Ombudsman.

Not surprisingly, people are her real motive in prosecuting Bolante, Lorenzo, Lee et al. as an attempt to save her skin. And she cannot fault the public for looking at her office's newfound vitality with a skeptical eye. Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares, one of the Senate leaders in the impeachment charge against Gutierrez may have captured the public's sentiment with his reaction to the news of the filing: "The Ombudsman is still trying to obscure the fact that she sat on the case even if her office was pampered with an inordinately high budget, the highest ever among all ombudsmen."

Under different circumstances, the prosecution of the case of the fertilizer scam could have been viewed as a positive signal heralding the long-hoped-for triumph of law, justice and truth in the case of the fertilizer scam. Sadly, in this instance, it is seen as an attempt to perpetuate more, if not a graver, injustice.

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To God what is God's

"GIVE TO Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." This is Jesus' reply to a tricky question that an audience of Pharisees and Herodians shows at him. It is quite possibly the first ever statement on the separation of church and state. The religious and political leaders of his time had been trying to entrap him in he seems almost prevailing. They wanted for him to say something against Caesar, blasphemous, or anathema that then could use against him.

The entire science of this elegant formulation test to backtracking. The coins he was preparing to is to Caesar. That is why the references were mentioned in the same breath as prominent and notorious figures, Judas's residency after a colloquial people. They knew that the tax they paid to Rome was only used to further oppress them. And yet, they were not prepared to openly up pose Rome. They were hoping for the reasons. Jews of this time delighted in hatred their neighbor explain Rome's direct rule. Accordingly, they saw Jesus as a speaker or their long-term designs. The things this man was saying were new and threatening, and he was gaining followers wherever he went. He was a threat to their leadership. They had to get rid of him using Rome's own laws.

A double-bind question is one whose answer is likely to compromise a person no matter how he responds to it. This is the kind of question the Jewish leaders threw at Jesus. "Are you sure you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are, but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. It is right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

If you recall elsewhere, the Jews because it would indicate that he was supporting Rome. If we would be taken as a defiance of Rome's rule, which could put him in trouble. In the gospel of Mark (12:15) tells the encounter, Jesus "recognized their hypocrisy."

"Why are you trying to trap me? he asked. Bring me a denarius, and let me look at it." They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

picture is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him."

More than Jesus did not provide a religious reason to justify paying taxes to Caesar. Caesar alone mints money for this imperium, he would take no responsibility for Caesar's rule, but while he would not be prompted to defy it either, he sought to restrict its scope. He gave to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. What does prescribed was one responsibility to one another as God's children—how to love, how to forgive, how to bear one another's, and how to live and die as human beings created in his image.

But all this, of course, came some with within the context of a system of beliefs. In simple universes, these beliefs are completely rooted in religion. The religious experience is the only way of experiencing reality. In such an environment, conflicts between governance emerge when other alternative knowledge and ways of processing information about the world. There is science, there is law, there is politics, there is the economy. Religion survives only when its explanations and accounts of reality stand up to the test of plausibility and assurance that they cannot be undermined by other opinions. As Nikka Lehmann nicely put it, "This religion cannot give 'science' a cry if God doesn't seem to be working anymore."

Religion remains the default option in its own way. It does not confine itself to a limited number of duties the way how a science does. Every sense in the world is interpretable from a religious perspective. In this all-embracing reach, it stands being compared to or replaced by other systems of knowledge. Even in the contemporary world, where religion and science are differentiated societies, defying jurisdictions about the full secularization of the future or the final overcast of religion from the public square.

But, this is not to say that religion's demise cannot be predicted. On the contrary, modern societies have sought to restrict religion to a narrow sphere of human activity. The modern attitude frowns upon imperious religions that seek to control all decision-making in society. This heretofore a big problem for politics, for law, and for the economy. In countries of Europe, even, too, also, the Church in general does not see this as its own problem. Her concern with simply expressing and promoting the religious interpretation of the world, it sees no answer the ultimate questions of society by overt acts of intervention in their operations. It is then left to more subtle instruction to defend their assumptions by relating to their own codes and criteria.

A religion that succeeds in remaining politic, the aim, as the testimony says finds itself less threatened by modern forces engaged in secularity. The choice it makes or the causes it champions is a matter of little quarrel their own procedures. Where the clergy, for instance, begin to directly assume key roles in realms notably function reserved for politicians, there is the understanding and authority as moral shepherds. There even flock starts to question their wisdom.

Still, there is a role for religion that modernity will never be able to erase. And that is to insist that ideal of perfection as an antidote to the terrible shortcomings of the present world. The image of the God who became man in order to reach the one of humanity here to be to, must remains one of the most powerful symbols of any religion. "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," Jesus said. What is God's for gathered?

• • •

public.david@gmail.com

'P-A-L-M'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HOMEBODY ONES said that life is like a prize in God's hands. Whether we go upon goodness, are always end up in the palm of His hand.

• • •

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of the Holy Week, in which we commemorate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Called during Palm Sunday, decided during Good Friday, and exalted on Easter Sunday, Jesus through it all remained in the palm of God's hand.

• • •

To remain in the palm of God's hand especially this Holy Week, let us do "P-A-L-M," i.e., Prayer, Almsgiving, Love, and Mortification.

PRAYER: This week, let us spend time to be with our Lord to reflect and to pray. Let us take time off from our work and worldly concerns, and really talk and listen to our Lord. Let's take time to join a retreat or a recollection, do the Stations of the Cross, or spend moments of adoration. Let us do these all not out of obligation, or because of tradition, but with heartfelt and personal devotion.

• • •

ALMSGIVING: Please find some time this week to reach out and minister to the less, the lost and the least among us. It's perfect time, especially for those of you who have been so blessed by God. Share your time, talents and treasure.

• • •

LOVE: Please do whatever penitence or devotions you do this week as an expression of love and gratitude to our loving God. Saying those daily vows, but act on one of our vows, and go the "extra mile" to show our love and appreciation of the many graces we receive. It is also the time to forgive and ask for forgiveness. It is a chance to show that we love and we care.

• • •

MORTIFICATION: Let us make some sacrifice and go beyond our comfort zones. Fasting and abstinence are just the least that we can do. Let us use this holy week the shortest lead up to deeper intimacy and deeper relationship with God, who

season will lead us to deeper conversion.

• • •

To our servants P-A-L-M, we add "S" i.e., Prayer, Almsgiving, Love and Mortification, with a Smile! Whatever we do this Holy Week, let us do it all with joy and with gratitude. God loves a cheerful giver! Let us thank God for giving us the chance and the opportunity to somehow respond to His love.

• • •

Perhaps we can add a section "I"—i.e., we do Prayer, Almsgiving, Love, Mortification with a "Smile," and "In Unity." We, the Holy Week is a time more for personal than for public devotion. Our Heavenly Father always sees the heart, and we do so also by exercising with sincerity and with the heart.

• • •

Please don't forget that the passion and death of Christ ends in the Resurrection. In other words, Christ is alive and He will meet us again soon in His Kingdom. But even now, we all become "saints of the Resurrection," giving life, giving love and giving hope wherever we go, whatever we do.

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Below is our schedule during Holy Week: April 18, 8 p.m.—Mass and installation, Shrine of the Divine Word; April 19, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.—Mass and reconciliation, San Beda Cathedral, Calamba; April 20, 9 a.m. to 12 noon—Mass and reconciliation, Good Shepherd Apostolic Center, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo; April 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m.—General Special on TV Channel 2; 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.—Recollection/Via Channel 2; 4:30 p.m. roll p.m.—Mass

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Today Palm Sunday we will have an annual recollection at the Meralco Theater, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be broadcast live over DWSI.

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Beautiful prayer reportedly was Holy Week: "Lord, enlighten what is dark within me, strengthen what is weak in me, mend what is broken in me, love in me what is unloved in me, lead what is sick in me, straighten what is crooked in me, and revive whatever pious and love that have died in me. Amen."

• • •

Our Holy month TV Special titled "Jesus in the Heart of Mary" will be aired on Holy Thursday (5:30 p.m.) and Holy Saturday (5 p.m.) on ABS-CBN Channel 2 and TFC. We want to thank the following for helping us in our humble apostolate: Executive Executive line—UFC, Harvard Laboratories, Claryssa Globe, B.S. Goldberg Lines; PCSO; PLDT; Bibliotecnica; Bonjet Science Inc.; SM Department Store; Sofia Tower; Pagcor; Sunday Goods Store; Phil Lepso Foods Corp.; L.E. Tejan Builders Inc.; Bolivar; Cosmic; Atmic; Interbank; Celeste Industries and family; Chito and Thelvenia Dy; Janis Robinson and family; Edgardo Enriquez and family; Otto and Mae Bello; Anabasis and Bibliotecnica Servis.; Lenten Series; Union Villanueva; Miguel Romero and Priscy Quiroz; Basil Co.; Servitodos Studios and family and Dino family.

• • •

Wishing you all a blessed, meaningful Holy Week.

• • •

A moment with the Lord

Lord, whatever I go through, I will be all right, as long as I am in the palm of your hand. Amen.

The same yesterday, today and tomorrow (1)

TODAY, PALM Sunday, Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem where He was hailed a King. If Jesus entered our modern Philippines now, what kind of leader would He be? Would He be welcome to run our town's politics?

Dear victor and minors: Our faith tells us that Jesus Christ is eternal; he is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Consequently, I said in a speech that I'm sure is true: Our leadership qualities are the same as the ones the compelling leaders in their times possessed and so they will be welcomed now. These are, first, Jesus is a leader with a vision and mission. His vision is consciously clear when He says, what His objectives were, and how He intended to accomplish them.

He proclaimed His specific mission in different ways to different listeners. To His disciples, He spoke boldly, assertively and authoritatively: the mighty mission on the mount is the greatest teaching of all time and for all time. He issued benefits to those of His group: the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer and the proclamations. He opposed the hypocrites, the arrogant, the proud and the self-righteous. He began the sermon and the simple-hearted.

To the non-disciples, in the Jews and the Gentiles, in Life or times, He taught through parables. For practically all of His ministry, He spoke in riddles or in the form something for himself." Then revealed facts and made the listener discover the truth without being told directly.

That is why most of His parables ended with questions. "Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?" was the question He asked to the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk 10:36); "Which of them was more grateful to him?" is the parable of the forgiven debtors (Lk 7:42); or "What has to you suppose the owner of the vineyard has to do with the?" in the parable of the vineyards (Mt 20:15).

Indeed, Jesus knew who he was, what He was to do and how He was to achieve His mission. He knew He would suffer and die, but He also knew

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangenthan

He would be victorious!

Courage and conviction. Stated, Jesus was a leader of enormous courage and unbreakable conviction. When he realized the earth 3,000 years ago, they was no freedom of speech, no freedom to believe, to say controversy—particularly with the religious leaders of the time—was the only measure of truth and virtue. But Jesus did not conform.

He mixed with sinners, tax collectors, a Samaritan woman, a prostitute and an adulteress. He never acquired a reputation of being "a glutton and a drunkard." No matter, He did not look anyone's approval but, certainly, He received acts of generosity rallied for repentance and boldly proclaimed the kingdom of God, a kingdom which is the opposite of that preached by the Jews and the Romans, a kingdom where the weak is strong and the strong is just and the just is compassionate.

He did not hesitate to be specific in describing His opposites and in denouncing their sins. He so declared (Mt. 23:25, 27):

"Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, you frauds! For you cleanse the outside of cup and dish and make them clean, but within they are filled with rapine and intemperance. You blind Pharisee! First, cleanse the inside of the cup so that its outside may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you frauds! For you are like whitewashed tombs, beautiful to look at on the outside but inside full of filth and dead men's bones."

Evangelical is my next quality. Third, Jesus was a servant-leader who led by example. In the Gospel, Jesus said this to disciples:

"You know how among the Gentiles those who seem to exercise authority lord it over them, their great ones make their importance felt. It cannot be like this with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wishes to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve, to give His life as ransom for the many" (Mk. 10:42-45).

Fourth, indeed, among the non-disciples, the leaders tended to own their followers. In our country and in our time, it is no different. Although our leaders are elected by the people, they still rule. They achieve public ascension, rise and then to stay they engage unto themselves power and authority over the lives and destiny of our people.

Before, they discover into themselves huge profit interests, so they could dispense patronage and favors to their followers, from the building of roads, the repair of public markets, or the construction of water districts. But leaders make themselves the owner of authority such that no business can be opened without their blessings; no employment can be secured without their recommendation; and no wedding or baptism will be complete without them as sponsors. Indeed, our leaders make their importance felt—not by reason of their wisdom or their service—but by the authority and the power they exercise themselves with.

Down the centuries, Jesus came to serve, not to be served. He gave of Himself freely and fully, not wanting or needing anything for Himself. And more than that, He set by example. To show that the wise ready to perform the humblest of service, He washed the feet of His apostles, telling them, "You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and fit enough enough for that is what I am. But if I, who am Teacher and Lord, have washed your feet, then you, too, must wash one another's feet. What I did was to give you an example so I have done as you, as you do" (Jn. 13:13-15).

To be continued next Sunday.

* * *

Comments are welcome at thdbethompson@hotmail.com

Standing by their man

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT SEEMS obvious when Willie Revillame and the management of Channel 5 are out to do in the news media that they chose "anything media" to off the air. That is to say, public opinion around it, that by the time the show makes a grand comeback, it will do so with the blessings of even the "bleeding hearts."

And maybe that is what it is, the financial loss as a result of staying away for two weeks isn't all that great, considering that last week's ratings for the Holy Week coming-attractions, when TV goes on hiatus save for the usual "Santong Pasyon," "Senyor Tenyor" and "Tawag ng Tanghalan" and the like, the supposedly who the two weeks as a chance to reflect on the events of their times.

Because the time away in the campaign to ease the heat on Revillame appeared to affect the show's audience crisis. Although Revillame and Channel 5 insisted that the period of Jan. Jan. have said they plan to use the time to do some of the things they've been putting off for a long time, such as spending more time with their children, others suspected disapproval for the way the show treated the 6-year-old boy and handled the entire issue.

Revillame's decision to "take a leave" to the MTRCB is what's the said that "child abuse" took place during the controversial show. The final straw, parents of Jan Jan, said, the accusation of child abuse have brought shame to them and made them subject to the ridicule and censure of neighbors and strangers. They also noted that they had even been counseled to be defended by Canonizing. If so, then I would urge them to seek out Honey as soon as they can. Canonizing is the country's foremost authority on children's rights, and has counseled and helped thousands of children, including boys children and families can recover from abuse.

* * *

AND SINCE what has it become a crime for an expert to air her views on a matter of public interest? The episode of the dancing boy was aired on free TV during primetime hours, and

you can't get any more public than free. Canonizing is accused of libel because she wrote a letter to the MTRCB which contained her observations of what had taken place and aired her concerns, especially for Jan Jan.

Is it now a crime for a citizen, even one with our Canonizing's credentials, to write a letter of complaint to a government body and urging it to take appropriate action?

Is Willie and Channel 5 may know that they have little chance of winning a libel complaint since Revillame is clearly a public figure, and the action leaves to show are a matter of public interest. What's why it's Jan Jan's parents who are suing for libel, though I think the possible abuse (even if it is "only" emotional abuse) makes them complicit in the alleged crime.

So, for those who are considering reporting the views of their own and nothing wants to make up the show, the TV boss and the station that is calling him are hanging tough and hoping that by causing their critics into silence, they can simply wait for the storm to blow over and then go on their merry way.

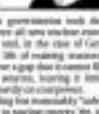
* * *

EVEN IASU we had a talk, Canonizing said she wished something would be done about the Jan Jan episode not because she has the same concern about the child's welfare, but because "the public should realize that everyone has to take responsibility for one's actions."

What will happen if Revillame and "Willing Willie" go away (to again with another very public offense? Or will we be able to move on?

That's all our hopes about improving the standards and quality of local television will come to

No nukes?



WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

NEAR SCHLA... When parts of Japan were devastated recently by an earthquake and subsequent tsunami, news of the human toll was quickly overshadowed by global fears of radioactive fallout from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi power plant. The concern was understandable, unfortunately, is very frightening. I grew up in Denmark as a time when fear of nuclear power was pervasive.

But our human instincts lead to heavily biased judgments, especially when it comes to energy supply and risk. Because we study many factors when we evaluate, it is difficult to step back during a time of a natural disaster to gain a broader perspective, assessing not to do so can feel cruel. But there are many facts that we should not overlook.

For one, the media's focus on the coverage of the tsunami drama, the specter of Chernobyl has been raised repeatedly. It is worth noting that the worst nuclear disaster in history directly caused only 31 fatalities. The World Health Organization estimates that 4,000 children would be linked to the disaster over 70 years, whereas the IPCC projects a range of 9,000 to 33,000 deaths during the period.

That is substantial. But consider that, according to the IPCC, every year nearly 1 million people die from air pollution, and that 2 billion people in the monster slums will procedure on the terrible fear in the developed world, and nuclear energy is no longer coverage.

Of course, every accident with nuclear power facilities should receive serious attention in light of the Japanese disaster, which raised obvious questions about the risks chosen for such facilities. Clearly, plants located near tsunami-prone areas need to be reconsidered, and some countries have power plants in disturbingly close proximity to earthquake fault lines—Switzerland comes.

But while America's commitment to nuclear power was quickly reaffirmed by President Barack Obama, some Democratic governments took the issue just decision to freeze all new nuclear energy projects immediately and, in the case of Germany, not to extend the life of existing reactors. Germany this will leave a gap that it cannot fill with alternative energy sources, leaving it less choice but to rely more heavily on coal and natural gas.

We can read as a polluting but sustainably "safe" energy source compared to nuclear energy. Yet, in China alone, coal-mining accidents kill more than 2,000 people each year—and coal is a leading source of air pollution. Germany's decision to go nuclear is a result of Germany's decision, its unfortunately combined sentiments are now expected to rise by as much as 18 percent—to a time when European Union emissions are rising as the economic shakes off the effects of the financial crisis.

The fact is that there's a low-carbon alternative if it deserves its nuclear plants, and the answer is one of many other countries. Alternative energy sources are not cooperative and nowhere near reliable enough to replace fossil fuels.

Although wind power has become cheaper right now, the assumption of new nuclear plants from another handle they are very expensive. New nuclear power plants have high up-front costs (which can be politically challenging), including a very complicated, slow and lengthy planning process. When completed, they entail risk of malfunction or power is significantly higher than the cheapest fossil fuel sources. And nuclear must have significant additional waste terms of the risks of operation storage and large-scale accidents. Moreover, in most parts of the world where energy consumption is expanding, nuclear proliferation is an issue.

There have to be questions of maintaining existing plants. Decommissioning nuclear reactors may make us feel safer, but we should acknowledge that they will often mean compromising for the best output from most existing reactors, and, strong, means reinvestment in global warming, and more deaths, both from coal extraction and air pollution.

Moreover, given that the plants are already paid for, waste facilities are already in place, and the risk of accidents is minimal, and that the anticipated expenditure of doing, the actual operating costs are very low—fuel or lower per kilowatt-hour than the cost of the cheapest fossil fuels.

The long-run solution is more research and development into a wide range of low-carbon energy, nuclear energy, but also into energy sources like solar and wind, which currently provide well below 1 percent of the planet's energy. Alarmingly, this research has decreased over the last three decades.

As pressure-calling on politicians to respond to climate change, a cry has rung out: "We need no gas, no nukes, no nonsense." The basic world—renewable sun could rival the Japanese disaster—is that we do not yet have the luxury of choosing only the cheapest, most effective and low-risk fuel: a feasible alternative, reducing reliance on one of these factors that monitor. Some take the place.

Project Syndicate

Bjorn Lomborg, the head of the Copenhagen Consensus Center at Copenhagen Business School, is the author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist" and "Cool It."

Castro the crusader

FR. MELVIN Castro, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, is very pleased with his successful crusade against the evil chorus Ronald McDonald, in a statement to the media, Castro says he is glad McDONALD has seen the error of his ways. And there's the rub.

"I do hope it doesn't reach this point again: it would have been better if they had been sensitive to our culture, and respectful of our values."

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

Castro is speaking of a classic McDonald's ad showing two small children waiting in a playground. In the ad, a pretty young girl, maybe 5 or 6 years old, asks a little boy if he was her boyfriend. The boy shakes his head. Girls, he says, are weird—so demanding, asking for too much too often. The girl storms off the boy—all she wants are McDonald's French fries. The boy forgets his woes and runs after her, saying that the happy price and happy girl with dishes the ones, as a voice over informs the public that McDonald's fries are now so FIT.

There may be many and varied reasons why McDonald's Ronald Ross fits a danger to the public health, but it is still not clear God's fast-food preference. Creation in favor of meal combinations that include Coca-Cola. Castro, in the 30-second commercial, claiming that it might children the wrong ethos on human relationship. "They should rejoice it, it doesn't look good. The emotional, relational bonding of people was made so look shallow that's why it should be rejected," Castro said in an interview with Radio Veritas.

That God prefers Jollibee over McDonald's may be the only conclusion to be drawn from Castro's last broadside against the Golden Arches. Castro is not the first in a line of McDonald's disrespect to Catholic teachings, that the CBCP would have bonded louder over a 2006 Jollibee commercial where a child was made to choose between the happy-go-lucky mother, and proceeds to violate the Fourth Commandment by thinking God for his jubilee dinner. Another can Castro claim that the treatment of love and relationships is particularly offensive, that he should be called liar in his stance by protecting Ronnie Romero or copies love to the jots of a mere This, in fact, is where the Church's love-to-sin mentality condemns it for failing to speak against an industry that suggest love can be achieved via the right shampoo (for long, straight hair) or through the calculate application of moisturizer (for others that in you seven days). Where was the Church on the campaign against a Jollibee kid's meal that laughing in any earnest calories per a drowning may to excuse but FUN! food?

The insistence on malicious interpretation—should FUN! then be condemned for violating the Seventh Commandment?—is Castro's own excuse. It would to assume children are the world of their own, that they are not capable. There is, after all, little malice in two children sailing chairs, adore sweethearts. Following this logic, every decent God-fearing parent should take their kids to small daughters who name home with makes on the bay to see corpses who reigns over the dead. Should parents be suspicious of a life of an when a 7-year-old son offers his last cookie in the jelly-filled last one does.

The problem, according to Castro, is that young children should not be told of mortality as such a young age, the same arguments he has been using repeatedly against sex education. Should parents be suspicious of a life of an when a 7-year-old son offers his last cookie in the jelly-filled last one does.

And still the Church could nothing when McDonald's "Ronald Is Family" commercial became a viral hit in 2009—a narrative that revolved around a pair of childhood sweethearts...perhaps because the publicity was not as crucial.

This is by no means a condemnation of the Church or a religion as a whole. It is instead a concern of the role that the Church has been and continues to play in Filipino culture. Religion is a powerful tool, and it is dangerous in the wrong hands. Castro is defending his church from a demon that he believes is not there. There must point themselves as martyrs and crusaders, willing to face evil for the sake of saving their people.

The link would then is growing unwieldy to be a militant association and religious entertainment," he says, "we are faced with a number of choices—to either firmly the Church brings to stand up for the Truth or as we would "confrontation."

It makes the whole issue more damning against the Church, especially when the man who claims to speak for morality is the same man who has been accused of using discretion largely exported of the various spokespersons employed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It was Castro who immediately denied the Church had anything to do with a controversial parish announcement dropping restrictions to the list supporters, even when that parish administrator and Jesuit priest Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. was also Castro's spiritual adviser. In spite of the Church's much-trumpeted concern over the status of political Philippines, who informed them that contraception and abortion are "intrinsically evil," it was also Castro's Church that the politicians who supported contraception. And where the bills' champion was Edsa Shrine rector and renowned lay Catholic person and the alumna of the hierarchy, even while the Pope sent apologies to families of unbaptized boys and unmarried girls and admitted forgiveness cannot equal the justice previously prime ramped, Father Castro, executive secretary of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, only had words of praise for the actions of doctors, nurses in his own blog days in spite of the Church's covers up, the Church committed no sin.

"When cover up is in the secular media is the problem lies more of the Church on two members. [The Church] does not pass judgment and imposes penalty on a public sinner. The time to absolve is a good minister does to not eating children."

McDonald's has moved on one by its failure to stand up to the storm of its work, neither has the Church served itself by allowing men like Castro to tread the gospel. Any other man would have been ignored as a coward and irrepressible. There are not many of Melinda Ann and public temperament. The issue is truth, and it's a principle I am told Castro loved dead to protect.

THEY SAID

Perplexing

"Why is it that this when the labor department says more people are growing jobs and the business community is expressing that they are hiring more people? I myself cannot reconcile that sometimes."

—President Aquino, expressing surprise over the make of the latest Social Weather Stations survey showing a growing number of Filipinos (mostly in Luzon) getting by

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...
Edna Juan P. Bantimana jr.

One boat, 1,000 prayers, countless journeys

Sadako Sasaki story

By Edna Batilana

AN AMAZING thing happened on April 13 when Peace Boat sailed into town. It was the culmination of a series of events that started a month ago when I set out to do a summer project with my 7-year-old son, Gabby. We ventured to make 1,000 origami cranes with the help of other kids and their families. I had hoped that it would teach him and kids his age an important lesson in empathy in light of the terrible disaster in Japan.

Because the Peace Boat arrived, what was supposed to be a mesmerizing product was completed more than a month early. I suppose it came from everywhere, as we were able to complete a little over 1,000 pieces.

The cranes came in different sizes and textures, as diverse as the people who helped. But the cranes themselves symbolized a single thing—their overpower had begun on this so far mired and all wanted to express support for the people.

Origami

It all started on March 15. Gabby came to me with his favorite origami book and asked for help in making a unique "thing." I taught him the cross (animal and color) but the story of Sadako Sasaki (Dee children) is the realm of the 8-magnitude earthquake and 10-meter tsunami in Japan.

After six months our first crane, he made a how-to video using pictures from his book. He asked me to put it on Facebook so our family and friends would know that we needed to make 1000 more. There was an immediate outpouring of support and encouragement.

The idea of a blog to document the creation of the cranes hit me a few days later.

I was watching the news about how the Japanese were trying to account for the missing and the dead, as well as the dire situation in the Fukushima power plant. "They're still talking about it?" Gabby asked me in bit and his 14-year-old brother in Davao, sat and watched with me.

"Yes, it's that big a deal," I told him. It dawned on me then that I needed to explain to my children why this was such a "big deal."

Current events

My husband and I have made it a point that our children are aware of current events. Like many parents, when there is a disaster close by, we explain to our children how these events affect their kids like them and remind them to keep the victims in their prayers.

But, until Gabby's reaction, I realized that children run the risk of getting desensitized. Even if they do develop the habit of praying, they're also likely to dismiss a particular event as just another one of those many disasters we see in the news (Rose-Ijaya, Typhoon Sendong that inundated the southern Philippines last December).

In my mind, that would be a terrible thing. One would hope that our children would learn to have empathy as a matter of course.

When one of them, a 9-year-old girl, asked, "but does the crane of Sadako?" then we explained how it all started. I was happy that she knew about the girl from 58 countries. But, her friends had a funny look because the only Sadako they know was a girl from computer horror books.

My 10-December door began to make the rounds. Those with children sent pictures of their little ones.

One short embarkings efforts were brought to young life to make sure Friday so he and Gabby could do it together. He was one of the first who immediately swung, joined the peace cranes, which he learned in Grade 3 & 1st Sadako.

Inquirer announcement

Last week, I learned about the arrival of Peace Boat from an article in the business, Inquirer.net. I called Alice for the chance to see it—Japan with the ship-and Initiative for International Dialogue. Part of the idea was to have over 1,000 peace cranes as the symbol of the Filipino people's wish for healing in Japan. When I called, Alice thought of her making the project as we would need the cranes to Japan via Peace Boat. I was a little hesitant about committing it as then because the deadline was fast approaching. I suggested a crane-making session after church.

When made a quick call to a former colleague in the business and as a nod to its corporate social responsibility, and the date with the Peace Boat was set.

I figured, still, the crane-making session with "the nameless five" and family gatherings over the weekend, plus the after-hours and work at the office, completing 1,000 cranes would be doable.

But then, I had a seven-case of origamis the weekend before the boats arrived. I used the "excuse" that I could not have to get a call to help me my blog and e-mailed a short background to the blogsite upon the request of my editor. At that time, we only had 209 cranes.

Outpouring of support

When my short piece was published in the business on April 11 and my friends started to my blog post on Facebook, I sensed an overwhelming response to the project.

The crane-making session in the office packed through, with Abby Bayaga, our secretary affairs manager, acting as Teacher Abby, Mary Ann Ramos, Alice and other making about 50 together with daughter Nikki.

At a meeting with our joint venture with Sumitomo Mitsui, Philjob, (now loaning) and Chong, suggested to Ramon Papadimitriou, managing director, and Marilyn Pua, assistant general manager, to take the cranes and make paper cranes out of old issues of YES! Magazine.

Then we would have all we in a small. "One only issues was to help a 7-year-old child complete his 1,000 cranes. But origami turned out to be a bonding activity for the entire team. Each fold was coupled with hugs. Each paper was embellished with smiles and stories. A 30-minute break from show by staff did in a lot of good! ... and hopefully the organizers people, too."

Nearing the 1,000 mark, I called to make cranes and call on their friends to donate colored goods. My sister, Anna Bantimana, made 123 cranes with her son, Nian, and our niece, Sharon. She was also instrumental in enlisting personal care products from Splash.

Strangers respond

One of the most touching things about the project was the response from strangers. There's Stephen Pennell, an acquaintance and client of an agency under the Department of Interior and Local Governments, who caught a report on a Facebook page made by my sister. Stephen also sent me a call for help.

Another stranger who called to make cranes and call on their friends to donate colored goods. My sister, Anna Bantimana, made 123 cranes with her son, Nian, and our niece, Sharon. She was also instrumental in enlisting personal care products from Splash.

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"A number of my officemates were also interested when I shared the idea with them last Monday. However, only Rhyn Bologna, Patricia de Jesus and I basically did the work. Ironically, the two Patricias who were only brought 50 cranes to me.

Then, there's Carmen Limsiong, a business administration student in UP Diliman. She is involved in fund-raising activities for Japan, including selling genuine Gintara furnishing to her "Sundays Digest" loyalty-readers in Tiaong, Quezon.

She also e-mail to her e-mail, "It's not the paper business we should fear. It is the indifference we should all be something about." Her brother helped her in sending off crates.

Lastly, there's Mark Castaneda who read my short piece in the business. He sent with me in Pasig at 8 p.m. on April 12, traveling through heavy traffic from her office in Bonifacio Global to Pasay. The first thing she asked when we met was "Did we make the quota, ma'am?" I didn't know at the time that we already had 1,000.

When I asked her why she went through all that trouble to give our last paper crane, she said in an e-mail, "I believe that prayers surpass all that is physical and tangible. Prayers can also be expressed in numerous ways like a song, dance, poem, etc. So while these amazing people, I am sending my prayers to the victims in Japan in the form of origami cranes."

My last crane at 10 p.m. was as my hands, or Private's house. My sister-in-law, Gerli, had dinner ready and more cranes awaited by her daughter, Patricia. Her Odd also helped in adding dimensions from her self-designed to Hello.

At Michelle, our helper, and I spent hours in cutting together all the cranes, we were both in awe over the effort that went into making each one of them.

Then the day came for Peace Boat to dock in Manila, everyone was excited. Our group included my husband, Michel, our two kids, our nephew, Clint, our friend Lisa and her son, Diego, and my officemate Blue with Bill.

In spite of the heat, the children were excited to see Peace Boat. The event had a festive atmosphere, with music and banners. Later that day, Lisa posted on her Facebook: "Spent this morning with Diego at Peace Boat. Great idea, would add to bring the thousand cranes to the Peace Boat. It was a good experience especially for the kids to see how a small gesture act of sympathy can still make a difference."

Prayers, journeys

It just seems like serendipity that Peace Boat got to sailing set with project and this piece would come out in the Inquirer on Palm Sunday. It is the season of prayer, after all. And, if people could take individual shape, 1,000 it would be the flow of a storm.

Upon seeing Peace Boat, my son Gabby asked if he could ride it and bring the cranes all the way to Japan himself. I told him that the cranes would have to go to Japan without him. And maybe, when he's older, he can visit Japan himself.

I believe everyone who has participated in this endeavor has gone on his or her own journey without even boarding the boat.

As for Gabby and I, our next journey will be to find the remains of Sadako. We need to tell them that their efforts are finally over. And we need to tell their parents about the wonderful things their children had done.

(Edna Batilana, a member of ours, is senior vice president and chief information officer of SMFB Inter-Media Inc.)

TEN-YEAR-OLD Kirsten Pernell and her project (1,000 cranes) of the 1,000 cranes sent to Japan on Peace Boat.

PEACE BOAT docked at Manila's South Harbor on April 13 for a one-day visit. The Inquirer learned over thousand cash and relief goods.

Cruise ship for peace

PEACE BOAT is a Japan-based, international NGO that has been working since 1983 to promote peace and sustainability through the organization of peace voyages on a large passenger ship.

Founded with the aim of examining Japan's history as an aggressor in the Asia Pacific region, it conducts projects for reconciliation and peace.

Peace Boat is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It actively participates in advocacy and educational activities on issues such as disarmament, conflict prevention and sustainable development, including through seminars such as the Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World. Peace Boat Chairperson Tsuyoshi Kawasaki is the author of the book "The Spirit of the Peace" and the editor of the global peace cruise.

US monitoring AIDS' growth rate in PH, says USAID

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WASHINGTON – "Standing very closely" the HIV-AIDS problem in the Philippines, one of its closest allies in Asia, according to the country's head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Gloria D. Steele, USAID mission director, said "the number of (HIV) infections in the Philippines is still small, but the rate of growth is problematic."

"(We're) watching that very closely and making sure our information campaign—letting people know what the implications are, what would happen, how you can prevent it—is well known," Steele told the Inquirer.

In an interview, Steele, a Filipino-American, said: "We need to be concerned, and we need to make sure that it does not spread."

"But unlike in most countries in Africa where it's really a big problem, it's not yet a generalized epidemic in the Philippines. It is limited to intravenous drug users and in men having sex with men. Basically those two groups," she said.

Steele said the US government was doing its part in the campaign against HIV-AIDS "in close coordination with the Department of Health (DOH)."

Between 2008 and 2010, USAID allocated $95.6 million (about P3.72 billion) for health-related projects in the Philippines, including the prevention of HIV-AIDS and emerging pandemic diseases, and the promotion of voluntary family planning.

The 4th MDG

In a report, the agency said "communication plays an integral part in an effective response to health challenges."

USAID "works with health officials and health service providers to inform the public of appropriate health practices, signs and symptoms of common health disorders, availability of health services and national and local health policies," it said.

Philippine only five years to the deadline to achieve its Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Philippines continues to fall short of its 4th MDG, which is to halt and reverse the spread of the dreaded HIV-AIDS, said Yolanda Marie Pagsisoy, country coordinator of the United Nations Program on HIV-AIDS (UNAIDS).

Citing official reports, including from the DOH, Pagsisoy said that in the Philippines new infection rates were growing, not down.

In the 2010 Global AIDS report released by UNAIDS in November, the Philippines was one of seven countries that reported a more than 25 percent rise in new HIV infections between 2001 and 2009, while other countries had either stabilized or significantly lowered the rate of new infections.

Among all countries in Asia, only the Philippines and Bangladesh reported increases in HIV cases.

Unfunded

The human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, leads to AIDS, short for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, a condition in which the body's immune system is attacked, weakened and disabled by the virus, ultimately leading to death.

In the Philippines, anti-HIV-AIDS programs "remain either unfunded or under-funded and have not been able to keep up with the change and pace in HIV transmission," observed Pagsisoy.

She said "more than half of program funding comes from external sources," like the Global Fund.

The programs "need a clear investment plan to address not only resource gaps but also sustainability of existing efforts," she stressed.

"Overall, it is largely a health-focused response ... other sectors need to step up their response in the problem," Pagsisoy said.

NO, WE HAVE NO BANANAS TODAY, not that much anyway. They're in Japan.

Japanese going bananas, also for okra

From page A1

traders from abroad.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Amores said the country's Class A and Class B banana shipments to Japan surged after the March 11 catastrophe. Bananas, Amores said, are easy to handle, store and distribute.

Aside from the premium Class A Cavendish bananas, Japanese importers have been also buying Class B Cavendish bananas from local producers at bargain prices since the quake. Those under- and oversized bananas are shunned in quake victims.

"That is why we don't have much bananas here. All the Class A and B are going there," the Philippine official said.

Amores said Japanese grocers sell one bunch of bananas for 200 yen and cut it into slices.

"The other half is sold to the consumer, while the other half is donated to hotels and the earthquake victims," he explained.

Okra OK

Another crop popular in Japan is okra, Amores said. Export of okra to Japan, he said, is growing.

Shipment of Philippine okra to Japan usually stops during the first week of May for because of the inclement rains, Japanese buyers have continued buying Philippine okra, which are mostly harvested in Central Luzon, until June 15, Amores said.

He estimated the value of the okra shipment to reach $10 million. "This is really benefiting our farmers," Amores said.

No storage facilities

The Philippines initially offered to ship bananas to Japan after the quake. But the Japanese government turned down the offer because of lack of storage facilities and manpower to distribute the tropical fruit.

Japan is one of the country's major market for bananas. A total of 70 percent of the bananas consumed in Japan come from the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture said. Japan is also the country's major market for dishes/meat.

Singapore, HK interested

Aside from Japan, Singapore is also interested in Philippine vegetables, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said.

Alcala said negotiations between the Philippines and Singapore are ongoing for the export of vegetables to that country.

"I'm talking with some traders in Singapore and we hope that in three to four months we will be sending our vegetables to Singapore. They don't have the capability to produce," Alcala said.

He added they are also talking with businessmen in Hong Kong for similar export, noting that the large number of tourists visiting the Chinese territory have huge food requirements.

"We have the capacity to produce. Let us make it so that we can improve the lives of Filipinos," he said.

'Where Pope John Paul II ...

From page A1

1981.

On May 2, a silence commemorating that 1981 papal event will be inaugurated, a joint project of the Diocese of Bulacan and the state-owned Bulacan Technology Park (BTP), which has taken over the refugee center in the 165 hectares of hilly terrain overlooking the South China Sea.

The centerpiece of the new shrine is a statue depicting Pope John Paul II as a host with a refugee. It was executed by Lipanto sculptor Gonzalo Bahelayan, 56, who was commissioned by retired Commodore Amado Sangleg, vice president and chief operating officer of the BTP.

"The world is acting as if it was here that he chose to celebrate Mass," said Fontanoso who happily exchanged stories of the 1981 event with Loyola.

1981 PHOTO Pope John Paul II hold Mass in Morong with then first Lady Imelda Marcos on the papal stage. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

Townsfolk's recollections

Some 30 years ago, Fontanoso was the town's rural midwife. Loyola, who runs their weddings for Caritas, was a teacher of English in the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees in the center.

Loyola said she managed to get near the Pope and hold his hand.

"The Mass was in English and the Pope embraced Laotians, Vietnamese, Cambodians," she recalled.

Fontanoso recalled that the Pope told the faithful to pray for Beauty before releasing doves and white balloons.

Mayor Victor Domingo, who was just three years in the priesthood in 1981 and one of the priests who concelebrated the papal Mass, said the Pope urged the refugees to "have faith in God's love."

Local boys named John Paul

Domingo said the Pope also thanked the Philippines and the Filipino people for offering a humanitarian haven to the thousands of refugees from the Communist bloc.

"That love is seen by the love of this country, by the United States and the acts of people. God is taking care of you," the Pope said, speaking from a "papal stage" bedecked out of two narra bamboos as the center's pavilion grounds.

Domingo said the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, the then Archbishop of Manila, accompanied the Pope to the Morong event. So did then First Lady Imelda Marcos, as shown by an old photograph.

Loyola said the Pope must have left a good impression on the locals because many newborn boys were christened "John Paul" at the time.

Classes and work in the town's offices, including the conservation of the Banana Nacional Wood Plant, 10 km north of Morong, were canceled. Longtime residents here recalled.

According to Loyola, the Pope's visit reinforced her faith. "My faith as a Catholic was strengthened," she said.

Countdown begins March 1

In the run-up to the April 30 to May 1 beatification event in Rome, excitement is building up in this coastal town of about 27,000.

The Our Lady of Pillar church began a countdown on March 1, and Fr. Reynaldo Loyola, the town's parish priest. A novena is said every day at 4:30 p.m. in the parish in Barangay Poblacion which Loyola and Franciscan natural visitors led.

Rely Hurtado, 66, has been organizing morning bus rides for memories of the 1981 event. Lawyer has found the souvenir, stories magazine, "Time Inc." and received photographs of the occasion from old folks.

Bulacan Bishop Dennis Sistoza said the concept of the shrine began with Lorzo who discussed the significance of the PEPC in the Pope's journeys in the Philippines with Sangley.

Lorzo believed that of the 29 communities visited by John Paul in 1981, Morong is the only one that is pointing up evidence to commemorate the event.

Work on the memorial, a joint undertaking of the Diocese of Bulacan and the BTP, which is being developed into an ecotourism destination, began last January.

Statue damaged

However, the 500-kg concrete statue that is the centerpiece of the shrine was damaged last Saturday when the sculptor carrying it made a sudden stop. The incident occurred at Malolos at 4 a.m., said Balahayan.

A slab on the flap of the Pope's robe was broken, as well as the right hand.

But Balahayan said the repairs will be finished today.

Also in the very roadmap messages in the 1981 papal event remain near to this day. "Where the Pope goes, the best things will be," he said.

"This is a prophetic message for us in Morong. The papal visit is the pride of Morong," said Lorzo.

Symbolic location

Posing up a shrine in the same location is symbolic of the Philippines' love and reverence for the late pontiff, according to Sangley to an interview with the CBCP News, the official news service of the Church hierarchy.

"Pope John Paul II loved our country and he will remain and be remembered in the hearts and minds of the people," he said.

The shrine will stand beside other ancient temples and monuments built by the refugees who once lived at the center.

The shrine is also meant to serve as a "vehicle for uplifting the moral, religious and spiritual life of the Filipinos," said Sangley.

Most traveled Pontiff

A gifted man of letters, poet, playwright, philosopher and intellectual giant, John Paul led the Catholic Church for almost 27 years.

He was the most traveled pontiff, visiting 129 countries and clocking 716,000 miles in the Philippines during his papacy, proclaiming the unifying Christian message.

His second visit to the Philippines, during the Manila World Youth Day in 1995, attracted a crowd of about five million, reportedly one of the largest Christian assemblies.

His death on April 2, 2005, prompted a global outpouring of grief and distinction that he be made a saint on the spot.

Some Roman Catholics affirmed the judgment of Vatican medical experts and theologians that a French nun's neurological disorder had been miraculously cured after she prayed to the memory of John Paul II. Amen.

The nun, Sr. Marie Simon-Pierre, whose inexplicable cure for Parkinson's disease was the miracle needed for beatification, will speak about her experience at the event.

Second miracle needed

Some 300,000 pilgrims are expected to flock to Rome for the three-day around-the-clock beatification event (April 30 to May 1), during which St. Peter's Basilica will remain open and run the night to accommodate the faithful who will want to pray before John Paul's tomb. With Jonathyn B. Ely

'Pabasa in hip-hop OK on road to Easter'

From page A1

Jet-loaders in the days before his Passion.

Palm Sunday, which falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday, is the traditional beginning of Holy Week for Catholics.

Bilgore explained that the Lenten season actually ended yesterday because Palm Sunday is considered by the Church as the beginning of Easter.

"The present participation Catholics can do is to participate meaningfully in the liturgical celebrations [today]," Bilgore said.

He also thought they may cap the traditional Pabasa, the long reading of the Gospel account of Christ's suffering, in an instrumental or synchronized beat, the faithful should not lose sight of the deeper mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, said Bilgore.

"This is okay as long as it helps in reaching more people," Bilgore said.

But it should be done in a meaningful way so people can listen and reflect on it, he said.

"We should remember that the singing or the noise is just an aid so that we could listen to it more closely, we listen to what is being read," he said.

Heart of salvation history

Today's rites include the blessing and procession of the palms (fronds) and the reading of the Gospel account of Christ's Passion, depicting the events and suffering of Jesus in the hours before and including his trial and resurrection by crucifixion.

Instead of John regular readings (using the Gospel), we will have a reading of the Passion from the Gospel of St. Matthew. So that is a way for a believer to enter into the spirit, into a meaningful celebration," Bilgore said.

Bilgore explained that the Holy Week and Easter that follows is the "heart of the saving history of our salvation."

"This is the most solemn celebration of the Christian faith. All of us are invited to enter into it in spirit mainly by understanding what the Paschal Mystery is and by of course, living it up because that is what faith is," he said.

Environment as theme

He said the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has set environment consciousness as the theme of its Alay Kapwa Lenten action program this year.

"It is a way of making Lent really meaningful and the theme now is the environment or ecological concern," Bilgore said.

The CBCP is known to be one of the most progressive hierarchies when it comes to environmental issues.

"Part of the saving act of the Lord is not just the human person but also the earth, the whole of creation, and a very important part of creation is of course, ecology," Bilgore said.

"So, if we really want what is best for our fellow men, we should also be aware of the environment, which is here, because we would do no good for a person to live in an environment that is polluted," he said.

Alay Kapwa Sunday

The Church has declared Palm Sunday as Alay Kapwa Sunday and Church collections today will go to Alay Kapwa for purpose programs.

Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales has also ordered special church collections for all the six Sundays of Lent for Alay Kapwa, which will help "victims of calamities and disaster, both natural and manmade."

The church is reminding the faithful that, being the "highest creation of God over all the earth," the people have "the moral responsibilities to nurture and care for the creation," Rosales said.

"The sun road in Easter, on Lent Juan Christ's ultimate example, let us also claim victory over our sufferings through the transformative power of charity and the material rise and purpose of Mary," he said.

Police reports conflicting on missing woman with Pilar Pilapil

From page A1

Pelias received a text message in Visayan: (Nabay na ko sa taxi. Inubar na raka ni cell. phone, mapuslit na ako") from Sandra, informing that her mobile phone's battery needed charging and that she was heading home in a cab.

The report did not say why Rosalyn in her text message did not inform Pelias about what happened to her and Pilapil earlier.

Husband's alibi

But a report by the Special Investigation Task Force Group Pilar (SITG Pilar), identified Pilapil's missing companion as Raoul Jaboualem Pelias, a saver of Bernie Pelias.

Senior Supt. Joel Coronel, head of the SITG Pilar, said Raoul Pelias has just arrived from abroad and is on a vacation trip in the country.

According to Coronel, the man handled at the center's parking grounds.

Dionapo said the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, the then Archbishop of Manila, accompanied the Pope to the Morong event. So did then First Lady Imelda Marcos, as shown by an old photograph.

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was how Pilapil narrated the events preceding the attack.

Pilapil and her husband met with Raoul Pelias at Robinsons Galleria mall in Ortigas at around 9 p.m. on Thursday.

The two women left Bernie Pelias there and drove to Manila Doctors Hospital Center in Manila City to meet some of Raoul Pelias' friends.

Raoul Pelias was driving, its lapil was on the front passenger seat.

As the vehicle was slowing down, two men came out of nowhere, opened the vehicle's rear doors and got in.

At Intramuros, they dragged Pilapil to the rear of the vehicle and ordered Raoul Pelias to drive to an open area.

According to Coronel, there was no reason to suspect that Bernie Pelias was involved in the incident.

"So far, there's no indication that the victim's spouse could [have committed] with the con-

Pressure at 10 a.m. today

Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said they are suspected car thieves who exploited and beat the lonely queen-fainted servers and left her for dead in a grassy lot in Antipolo City did not believe her when she introduced herself.

Pagdilao said Pilapil was "located" when members of the SITG Pilar visited her yesterday at The Medical City in Pasig City.

"Fortunately, [she] was able to regain consciousness and is now out of danger," Pagdilao told the media. "The guys are good leads that will certainly help us solve this crime."

The Pilapil family will hold a press conference at The Medical City today at 10 a.m.

'I'm a celebrity'

Coronel said Pilapil recovered her memory and her husband met with Raoul Pelias at Robinsons Galleria mall in Ortigas at around 9 p.m. on Thursday.

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Coronel said that despite her multiple stab wounds, Pilapil was able to describe her attackers to police investigators.

He said sketches of the suspected culprits also would be distributed to police units and checkpoints in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

He said all police officers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces had been alerted on the missing celebrity but SITG Pilar had yet to receive information on Raoul Pelias' whereabouts.

According to the Manila police report, the attackers pushed Pilapil out of the car in Barangay San Luis in Antipolo. She landed on a grassy slope in Pinagsama Subdivision.

Although bleeding, Pilapil managed to climb up the slope and was taken by concerned citizens to the Antipolo District Hospital.

She was moved to The Medical City shortly thereafter.

Coronel said the task force is also probing the incident involving Pilapil and a missing woman companion as a possible case of car theft, plain robbery or abduction.

He said the missing companion used by the two women was identified as police officer 1 and was described by Pilapil as "a late model Kia sorento, possibly a Kia Carnival or Carnival."

Citing the results of the initial investigation, Coronel said the theory of robbery as motive of the incident was premeditated.

"This is a spontaneous, random criminal act," he said.

It is the first celebrated case to be handled by Pagdilao in his capacity as CIDG chief.

Pagdilao said his team would "hook up" with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and examine footage from the closed-circuit television cameras of the local government and private establishments in the concerned area.

Binay position on RH bill: Neither here nor there

From page A1

Parenthood, Reproductive Health, and Population and Development, now pending in Congress.

Condom use fine

He said he respects women's right to her body and thinks the use of condoms is fine.

But he draws the line at abortion and "abortifacient" pills, he said.

"My position is consistent. As long as there is life, even for one second, that's abortion already. That's not right any-

more," he said in an interview.

He said women should have the freedom not to get pregnant, without resorting to abortion.

In other words, the vice president supports freedom of choice for women, as long as they do not "cross the line to abortion."

Just prevention

On the use of condoms, Binay said he saw nothing wrong with them, as they only prevented conception.

"With condoms, there's no abortion. It's just prevention," he said.

His position on birth control pills is "it depends."

"Those abortifacient ones should not be allowed. Those drugs will cause abortion. But those only used for prevention (are fine) because there's no life involved yet," he said.

House Bill No. 4244 (the Reproductive Health Act) mandates state support for voluntary family planning and universal access to reproductive health services.

The bill has run into strong opposition from the Catholic Church, which says it is against the idea of the state allocating public funds for "abortifacient" contraceptives.

Public advocates, who consider as abortifacients some contraceptives such as pills and intrauterine devices, have also criticized the bill. They also reject a state-sponsored distribution of condoms and other contraceptives for fear that they might lead to a culture of promiscuity.

In the House itself, opposition to "public" lawmakers has led to delays in the bill's passage. Some bills have gotten nowhere in previous congresses.

President Aquino's position that he is for responsible parenthood and that his administration wanted to give couples an informed choice on family planning methods was loudly protested by the Catholic clergy and lay groups.

On March 20, some 40,000 opponents of the RH bill took part in a protest at the Rizal Park.

Malacañang continues to engage the Church in a "continuing dialog" on the controversial measure.

The bill has also sparked controversies in the local government level. The barangay council of Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa issued an ordinance banning the sale of condoms and other contraceptives in their locality without a physician's subscription. This was met with protests from pro-RH bill residents of Ayala Alabang.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo has issued a memorandum to barangay councils warning them that issuing ordinances banning the sale of contraceptives without a doctor's prescription in their localities may be beyond the powers or authority of local governments.

With a report from Philip Tubeza and Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

No anti-impeachment ploy–Merci

THE SPOKESPERSON of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez yesterday said the decision to file criminal charge against a number of officials for the P728-million fertilizer fund scam was not a ploy to "intimidate" lawmakers.

Lawyer Tomas Syquia, Gutierrez's impeachment spokesperson, said the Office of the Ombudsman's decision was all in a day's work. He said the office continued to prioritize despite the challenges that Gutierrez was now facing.

"It is not correct to construe it in a way that the Ombudsman's work does not stop with the filing of the impeachment case," Syquia said in a text message.

He said Gutierrez did not want to comment further on the issue precisely to avoid the perception that she was using it to counter the impeachment case.

The resolution recommending plunder charges against former agriculture officials Luis Lorenzo and Jocelyn Bolante was approved by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro. Gutierrez had withheld from the deliberations out of a sense of propriety, her office had said.

Leila B. Salaverria

LORENZO left; courtesy of 2005

BOLANTE was deported to US in 2008

Tell all, Joc-joc, Cito told

From page A1

orders plunder charges had been ordered filed by the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the fund that was purportedly diverted to the 2004 election campaign of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

A special panel of the Office of the Ombudsman has issued a resolution directing the filing of plunder charges at the Sandiganbayan against Lorenzo, Bolante and several others who purportedly amassed some P365.6-million from the fund.

The panel also directed that Lorenzo, Bolante and the others be charged with bribery, violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and malversation of public and public funds, and graft.

President Aquino's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte defended the resolution issued by the special panel, saying it was "for little, too late."

Valte said the Office of the Ombudsman's belated action on the case "doesn't diminish but highlights the inaction that has gone on."

"Remember, the fertilizer fund scam happened in 2004 and it was discovered in 2005. Now it's 2011," she said over anno-ano?kailan ng Enero.

The fertilizer fund scam is considered the strongest complaint among the six articles of impeachment submitted against Gutierrez.

Starting the trial

Former Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate agriculture committee that recommended in 2006 the prosecution of the key players in the scam, said the entire way Gutierrez's way of skirting the impeachment trial. (The Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon also looked into the case. See *What Went Before* on this page.)

"It's welcome, but at this stage it might just be used as a reason by Gutierrez to wiggle out of the [trial]," Magsaysay said in an interview.

Besides, the order "doesn't change the fact that her office has become one of the biggest symbols of stonling reforms within the bureaucracy," he said.

Magsaysay agreed that the special panel's resolution had come too late, and said it would also take the Sandiganbayan years to resolve the case.

"It ain't over until it's over," he said.

Two congressmen who will serve as prosecutors at Gutierrez's trial also said the special panel's resolution was part of her defense strategy.

Iloilo Rep. Ned Nograles, the chair of the House committee on justice, said the Ombudsman merely wanted to cover up her "constitutionally shaky stalling" vis-à-vis the fertilizer fund scam.

"The betrayal of public trust has already been committed and a very delayed cover-up cannot cure it," Nograles said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said Gutierrez was still trying to protect her boss, former President and now Pampanga Representative Arroyo, by pinning down Bolante.

Colmenares said the special panel's recommendations were just for show.

"The fact that it took [Gutierrez] an unreasonable length of time to file a case is already proof of public trust," he said.

'She thinks we're fools'

Si Bonie City Liberal Party (LP) president Manuel "Mar" Roxas II assailed Gutierrez for the belated order to file plunder and corruption charges against Bolante.

"She thinks Filipinos are fools," the former senator told the reporters on the sidelines of the Cagayahan festival.

Roxas, who fiercely campaigned against Bolante when the former agriculture undersecretary ran for governor of Cagayan in last year's national elections, said the special panel's resolution was "startling," coming after five years and when Gutierrez was facing trial in the Senate.

"[Gutierrez] ran on this case for five years, being blind to the charges against [Bolante]. This is the biggest proof that she has done nothing and of her dereliction of duty," he said.

Roxas also said Gutierrez finally ordered the filing of the plunder case as "a desperate move to cling to power."

He said he agreed with suspicions that the Ombudsman might have filed a weak case against the respondents with the idea that this would eventually be dismissed.

In a separate interview, Capiz Gov. Victor Tanco, an LP leader who is mulling Bolante to the 2013 gubernatorial race, said the filing of charges against the latter was being delayed.

But Tanco expressed doubt about the motives of the Office of the Ombudsman.

"You might be meant to plunder (these warning [Gutierrez] removed from office," he said.

Inordinate delay

Ronnie Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and one of the respondents in the plunder case, voiced concern that the plunder case might be dismissed in fact and be dismissed by the court because of the delay in its filing.

Reyes pointed out that the report recommending the preliminary investigation of Bolante et al. was completed in 2006.

"If the report isn't to their delay, then what is? The belated filing of cases in Bolante et al. only strengthens the independent case against Gutierrez. What was the difference between the evidence that the Ombudsman had in 2006 and the evidence they have now, that it is only now that they decided to file plunder cases against Bolante and the others?" Reyes said in a statement.

He also expressed concern that a weak case might be filed, and that it was only to allow Gutierrez to use it as a defense in her trial.

"We are not about to give her the benefit of the doubt," he said. "We have to see if the [case] is designed to be dismissed."

Facing the charges

Bolante did not respond to repeated calls and text messages from the Inquirer since Friday.

But an ally of his in Cagsa came to his defense.

"So we wanted the charges to be formally filed back then so he could face them squarely in the proper forum, instead of the court being delayed as usual," said former Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco, secretary general of the Lapiang Bisa Capiz, a coalition of former Lakas-Kampi-CMD in Capiz that joined forces with Bolante in the 2010 elections.

Ricardo Oliveros, the former director of the Department of Agriculture in Central Visayas, said Bolante was ready to respond to the malversation and graft charges recommended filed against him in connection with the fertilizer fund scam.

Oliveros, who is now with the Office of the Agriculture Secretary, said he was dragged into the case only because he implemented the fertilizer program in Central Visayas.

He admitted that the case was affecting him. "Of course we have to survive."

Oliveros said he and the others to be charged would have to answer the case individually because there was a different project implementor in each region.

He said he would have to take his own money especially in hiring lawyers to defend him. He added that this was just part of the hazards of the job. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila; and Shannon Aspillaga, Inquirer Visayas*

QUESTION FOR MERCI

Where did ₱1.6-B savings go?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RADIO MEDIA has reported that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez realized up P1.6-billion in savings representing unused allocation in her first four years in office and now asks, where did the amount go?

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Javier Colmenares said that the Commission on Audit should review the finances of the Office of the Ombudsman to determine where the savings had been spent.

He said that the accumulated savings of government agencies were "a source of corruption" for government officials who acting on their discretion, can manipulate to accrue savings and divert the funds for personal gains.

Colmenares said it was ironic that Gutierrez was "neck deep in funds" while she and her office sat on the corruption cases filed against former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Huge savings yearly

"While she demands an increase in budget yearly, her office strangely reports a huge amount of savings every year. Either purposely devised a huge budget despite her savings as she could wedge the said savings to some unknown expenses?" Colmenares asked.

Bayan Muna's report showed that the Ombudsman's unused budget allocations jumped from a low of P1.38 (67) million in 2006 to a high of P653.928 million.

"Where did all this money go? Fiscally independent bodies like the Ombudsman can easily realign their savings beyond the scrutiny of Congress," Colmenares said.

Colmenares said that the Ombudsman was clearly given "preferential treatment" by the former President based on the surge in its budget, noting that it increased from P787.98 million in 2005 to P1.2761 billion in 2010. At the same time, she said, spending on social services and antipoverty measures declined during the same period.

"People will suspect that this could be the quid pro quo between Gloria and Merci," she said.

Colmenares is a member of the House team tasked to prosecute Gutierrez in her upcoming impeachment trial at the Senate.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

IN FEBRUARY 2009, the Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon concluded its investigation of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam and recommended the prosecution of its alleged masterminds, former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante and nine others.

It also held responsible Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, whom "grave misconduct" it said, allowed "people to get away with crime."

The committee report was a result of eight hearings on the alleged diversion of farmers' funds under the control of Bolante to supposedly then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her campaign during the presidential election in May 2004.

The scam was exposed two months before the election, when then Pasilio Lorenzo, himself a presidential candidate, accused Arroyo of "criminal over-leaping" by authorizing the release of funds to favored officials.

The Senate called for an inquiry, with Bolante—who resigned from the agriculture department in September 2004—as the main witness.

Flight

Bolante flew to the United States before the inquiry started, prompting the Senate to request the cancellation of his US visa. He was subsequently arrested in the United States and jailed there.

Former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo also fled the country in 2005 to evade the Senate inquiry into the fund scam.

Through the years Bolante's petition for asylum was rejected by the US courts, and he was eventually deported to the Philippines in October 2008.

He finally appeared before the Senate on Nov. 13, 2008, During the nine-hour hearing, he chanted a litany of liability, saying "I'm in implementation of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam implement you guys was approved by (the budget department) without the President's approval."

He also said it was Lorenzo who had authorized him to "download money" for the purchase of fertilizer and farm implements in 2004.

A member of lawmakers to the Department of Budget and Management's list of beneficiaries of the funds denied receiving any money.

Five days later, Bolante appeared before the House of Representatives and reiterated his testimony at the Senate.

Witnesses came forward in the succeeding Senate hearings and even more personalities, including local government officials, were mentioned and dragged into the scandal.

Counteraffidavit

In July 2010, amid news of Lorenzo's return to the country, the Office of the Ombudsman announced the results of its investigation into the scam and recommended that Lorenzo and Bolante be indicted for graft and malversation along with 22 others.

In August, Lorenzo submitted a counteraffidavit to the Office of the Ombudsman, saying he could not be held liable for malversation because Bolante controlled the P728 million.

On Thursday, a special panel of the Office of the Ombudsman directed the filing of plunder charges in the Sandiganbayan against Lorenzo and Bolante. *Inquirer Research*

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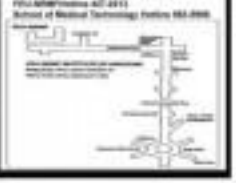

Pacman takes day off, undergoes checkup

MANNY PACQUIAO took the day off yesterday to undergo the regular annual medical examination required by the Nevada State Athletic Commission after which referee Mike Kasel Kenny said "everything was fabulous and Manny had no problems." Kenny told the boxer's trial the pound-for-pound king "went through a complete physical examination including a blood test" at the clinic of Dr. Richard Sherman and passed the tests without a hitch. **Ramon Tulfo details**

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delmo

Iranian tops Le Tour's kickoff race

By Jane Navarro

RADHI DHAAR brought his mountain-climbing prowess down to a flat course that kicked off the 2011 Le Tour de Filipinas yesterday.

The Iranian from Assel University rolled the 107.2-kilometer criterium in one hour, 26 minutes and 52 seconds at the Ninoy Aquino Park on Roxas Boulevard.

Ericsson Olivas of 7-Eleven arrived five seconds behind Rahimi, nosing a nine-man second group that included Georgia born Nazmul Sher Sinan (Team Cycling), Alex Cuison Ribaut Alcalde and Noel D'Asis Asian Zangel.

Sinan was later ranked third over Silver Iranian Zangel while Brian Lomita, the reigning 'Le Tour' champion Tanel Mc Conn's Argent, placed ninth.

McConn's Argent, placed ninth.

McConn also checked in with a large group and finished 17th, seven seconds behind the top-seeded.

"It's just the opening stage. Though I'm not familiar with the terrain in the succeeding laps, I'm determined to give it all in the next three days," said the 29-year-old Irishman who dominated last year's four-day challenge by over six minutes.

Rahimi seized the prestigious yellow jersey for today's second stage from Bulacan, Bataan, to Iba, Zambales.

The 20-year old mountain climber of Iran covered a 10-second bonus from his accumulated second time in the four-day Marathon calendared in the Asia Tour of the world-governing Union Cycliste Internationale and presented by his Motors with Smart and MOT as partners.

After finishing with identical times at Tanel Zangel were Ali22's Mostafa Hasten, Eusebio Quiñones of Shoppitas, 7-11's Lloyd Lauren Stepanate and Irish Valenzuela, Cosmo and Smart's Baler Ravina.

Olivas earned a bonus of eight seconds while Sinan got six seconds in the initial lap of the multistage race.

With Olivas, Valenzuela and Stepanate in the top 10, 7-Eleven installed itself on top of the team race with an aggregate time of 9:20:51, 10 seconds better than the Smart team of Ravina, skipper Teresa Martinez and Oscar Bendelo.

The event is headed by Wine Alkhefer, American Wind, Phoenix Fuel, Mountain, Commodities Shirts, RunBike Philippines, 7-Eleven, Integrated Waste Management, Shoppitas and SignAdvisor.

After the race, the four sponsorships launched a relay in Orani, Bataan, before moving to nearby Balanga, the starting point of the 133.60-km up and down Stage 2.

RADHI DHAAR crosses the finish line all alone. BOBBY ROMUALDEZ

Hot Bulldogs trip Lions; Tigers score

By Jeannine W. Pays

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY continued its surprising form as the Bulldogs upset the reigning NCAA champions Ateneo Blue Lancers, 81-80, yesterday in the 2011 FIBA Flying V Hanes Preseason Premier Cup.

Rookie Bobby Ray Parks and Bobby Ocha knocked in back-to-back triples in the dying seconds as the Bulldogs clinched their second straight victory at the FIBA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Parks snapped a 20-point effort with the game-tying trey, 83-83, before Ocha drilled the game-winner with just 5.4 seconds left. The 17-year-old son of former seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks, who had eight rebounds, four assists, two steals and one block.

Gadiez Ramos Abdul Saad 22 points and 17 rebounds while Chalk Boniface came through with a key triple in extra time as the University of Santo Tomas nipped San Sebastian, 104-102, in double overtime.

For Eastern University ensemble, nearly blew a 20-point advantage in the last nine minutes before salvaging a 66-61 victory over Adamson for its first triumph.

Jorge leads junior world qualifier

JOHN JORGE fired a 62 for a commanding 7-stroke lead over Jed Dy at the start of the Boys Class E QuadFlying tournament for the Junior Pro El Dorado championship at the Riviera Sports Club in Cavite.

Jorge used his height advantage to pull away from the pack in the boys' 15-and-under division.

Dy, moving up one division after dominating in Class F last year, aced or 2nd at 69. Andre Barbangan was 2nd at 79 while Liam Ramos scored a 72 to be at fourth place for day in a pitch and putt course.

Sophia Bianco and Sasha Tuason shared the lead in girls Class E, Gayle Ann Esquivel forged ahead in girls Class F, and Miguel Olivarez Jhai and Sean Guanzon did 68's to go three up over Ben Habana in boys competition. The top finishers in the tournament will join the Philippine delegation to the Callaway Junior World in San Diego, USA, this July.

Sponsors of the tournament are ICTSI, PAL, Pan Cake House, Serengeti Bra, Merlin Pepper, a friend of Golf & Inquirer Golf.

The Qualifying event for Class ABCD will be held April 23 to 28 at Manila Southwoods.

Perfect doc

DR. JOEY MENDOZA of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Sporting Association (Stella) received a perfect game during the recent qualifiers for the association's Classic Showdown tournament. Mendoza scanta 14-8 Strother Loaded By Blumenfeld depositing the 300 score on Lanes 19-20 of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Sporting Center in Cainta, Rizal.

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Ang DyaryoRadyo Mo.

PBA All-Star Weekend goes to Boracay

CARLOS QUITEVIS was bouncing with excitement as he kicked off the long list of events that will highlight this year's PBA All-Star Week in Boracay.

"This year, it will be different. We're not going to have just the usual All-Star legends fans. There will be rookie, coach, and [illegible]," said, showing off the first page calendar of activities from May 10 to 15.

Quitevis is the executive governor of Subic at Clark, and is also [illegible] of the newly formed Central Luzon franchise, the media that will present the All-Star's Mythical Five.

The week would be a very busy one for the PBA execs. Autograph signing, photo-ops, motorcade, a welcome dinner at Punta Bunga, the Battle of Central Boracay, basketball court painting, tree planting and hospital visits and gift-giving on the morning of the second day. The rest of the day is reserved for practice, games and beach parties, which include a bang-of-war, dance-an-dance volleyball and a contest to eat cotels-making.

"Don't you mean 'bag of wee' instead of 'bang-of-war?'" I asked Carlos, thinking that clever sidekick have been a typographical error for the show promoter.

He said there was no error. "It is an improved version of the tug-of-war where we are dispense with the rope and the suppose, tug women bag each other to stay connected," he said.

Carlo said that candidates of the Mistress of Filipinas contest which Carlo fronts him is also organizing, will participate in the beach games.

A player and a Mistya candidate will of course be the bag of wee.

A mix of players and Mistya beauties will also model beachwear in a fashion show that will provide dinner on the second day.

"The whole event will be known as 'Hihi Bola'. 'Hihi Bola' would have been more appropriate, but because mayor John Sap said people might be misled because there's also a Hoto Bola in the island," Carlo said.

"Mayor Sap and Mayor Jil Tanday of Caticlan Island, owner of several All-Star resorts, have been most supportive. They're doing everything to make the Boracay All-Star a big success and a most memorable event."

On the morning of Friday, May 20, the PBA will hold an outreach clinic for the indigenous community of the island. The All-Star activities, which include a three-point shootout, the obstacle challenge, the slam dunk contest and the rookie-sophomore-like game will be staged starting at 5:00 p.m. An awarding ceremony immediately follows.

"On Saturday, May 21, we will have our own version of the reality show 'Amazing Race,' where PBA stars and Mistya beauties will participate. This will be a whole day of fun," said Carlo.

The highlight of the five-day affair, the Manila versus South All-Star game will be staged on the last day, Sunday.

"There will be a lot of thrilling from one place to another in preparation for the seasoned accounts," Carlo explained.

Last year the All-Star week was held in Puerto Princesa with Mayor Jil Hagedorn playing the perfect host.

The event was simply but memorable.

With the usual hype and unconventional preparations in Boracay, I told Carlo I expect the All-Star to be even more successful this year.

Lyceum eyes Shakey's V-League quarters

By Jasmine W. Payo

QUEZON CITY — Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) is one win away from a quarterfinal berth in the Shakey's V-League after a 25-23, 25-23, 25-23 victory over Adamson University (AU) Tuesday night at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

Lyceum improved to 5-2 and is now tied with Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) for second place in the standings behind undefeated University of the Philippines (UP).

Lyceum's Jovelyn Gonzaga led the Lady Pirates with 15 points, while Jennifer Nierva added 12 points and 10 digs.

Gonzaga said the win was important for the Lady Pirates as they look to secure a quarterfinal berth.

"Kailangan talaga namin ito kasi nga sa dami ng laro namin, kailangan talaga namin ng panalo para makapasok kami sa quarterfinals," she said.

Lyceum coach Ariel Dimaculangan said his team's defense was the key to the win.

"Nagpokus kami sa defense kasi alam naman natin na malakas ang offense ng Adamson," he said.

Lyceum will face Ateneo in the last game of the elimination round on April 23 at the Philsports Arena.

Meanwhile, Adamson dropped to 3-4 and is in danger of missing the quarterfinals.

The Lady Falcons will face UP in their last game on April 20 at the Philsports Arena.

Texters, Gin Kings go for 2-0 today

By Marvin R. Carrillo

TALK 'N TEXT goes for a second win when Barangay Ginebra hopes to duplicate against Smart Gilas Philippines in the PBA Commissioner's Cup semifinal playoffs today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Texters are heavily favored to outrock their dominance of the 2010 Aspirants' 32 straight games when they clash at 6:30 p.m.

But it's anybody's game in the 6 p.m. opener following the Gin Kings and the national line after Barangay Ginebra barely took the first game of its own best-of-five series with Smart Gilas, 97-96, Friday.

The Texters led by as many as 23 points midway in the second quarter, 46-23, but Barangay Ginebra rallied from there to outscore Smart Gilas, 74-73 in the second half.

Patrick Slaughter, the Hottest Commercial 6-foot-11 center will continue to be Ginebra's main problem, though coach Jeworian thinks believes that his side lost Game 1 because his guards didn't play well.

JV Casio and Ildefonso Lumibao after averaging close to 20 points combined in the elimination round, were limited to just nine points Friday.

"We had problems in the guard position," Jeworian said, adding that his boys were only from a nine-day break after making it outright to the semifinals behind the Texters.

RONALD Tubid (below) typifies Barangay Ginebra's grit in a loose ball duel with Smart Gilas' Chris Tiu.

Baseball Series 8: Manila batters whip Taguig

By Mars Anthony Reyes

CENSUS LARANDOR pitched a five-inning shutout while Emmel Boja gained a hard-fought decision as defending champion Manila routed Sinweed Taguig, 11-3, yesterday at the start of the Baseball Philippines Series 8 at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

The Manila standout (3-1-1 load after six innings while fanning seven batters and never threatened in a dominating show that boosted their bid for an unprecedented third straight title.

They will go up against the same Pirates today with Dr. magnate taking on Cebu also at the Rizal field. Mabuhay and Freedom Builders Batangas also look home in Lipa, Batangas.

Dangki's RBI single in the second opened up a rash of runs for the Sharks, who used three more pitchers to keep Boja in shape after team manager Art Pabuwag lifted Labrador before the sixth inning.

Boja's backup took over in the sixth and yielded the mound to Fernando Barbosa in the eighth before Jessie Bulkan retired the side in order in the inside.

Study shows global rise in Rugby participation

RUGBY HAS experienced a solid increase in participation since the 2007 Rugby World Cup, driven in large part by strong growth from emerging markets, according to a research commissioned by Master-Card Worldwide.

The study called Economic Impact Report on Global Rugby: Strategic and Emerging Markets shows that global participation has increased by 15 percent since the 2007 World Cup. Rugby is now the sport of choice for more than 3 million men, women and children in over 117 countries.

While participation figures are highest in Europe, new traditional rugby playing nations in Asia and the Americas have also emerged, contributing to the 15% increase seen across the continent.

NBA LEGEND Wilmore of the Spalding Mens and Gionet and NBA Legend promote AC Green, a three-time champion with the LA Lakers, and Jo NBA mascot Jamie Makelele at the GH Hall of Fame. Retailers who had shown exceptional performance in selling Spalding NBA products, also had a chance to meet the former basketball star in person.

Carlos targets 'three-peat'

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD badminton standout Maria Bianca Vidal Carlos is targeting a sweep of the boys of the MVP Sports Foundation-Philippine Badminton Association (MVP-PBA) Sports Foundation Championships recently.

"My target is to win a grand slam again in the remaining legs of the Phase in Bacolod, Davao, and Manila," said Carlos, who topped the singles title in the premier Open ladies division during each the singles and doubles phase in the Under-19 girls' action.

Carlos put in a lot of work in training under coaches Sirikan Atmito and Rosanvie Amontos of the Atenistas Badminton Center.

"I train every days a week, morning and afternoons on Mondays to Saturdays, and rest for Sundays. Building at the Ultra on Sundays," said Carlos.

Carlos will lead the field in the second leg starting May 19 in Bacolod.

CARLOS

SPORTSWATCH

Isla summer clinics get going

THE INTEGRATED Sports Learning Academy (ISLA) will hold summer clinics in swimming, basketball, taekwondo and tennis and in separate venues.

Swimming has already started with Olympian Fe Susana overseeing clinics in Binondo, Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Santa and Laguna Bel-Air in Laguna.

Listing is ongoing and interested parties may call (632) 09 (632) 0920-0940.

Eliseo Reyes, executive [illegible] Lakas core of the basketball academy [illegible], Las Piñas, Santa and Laguna.

Big Dave hosts Bulilang Bulilang

BIG TO TAE, expected big feet, the "Bulilang Bulilang National 1—Bulilang Bulilo," an annual event with +1 minimum stakes, will have two days of competition at the Alcantara Coliseum next month.

Elimination at the Big Dave Jumbo arrived on May 7 and 8, while the championship rounds is on May 12, 14 and 15.

About 1,000 gamefowl breeders from all over the country, who are affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders will see action, according to NFGB executive director Arnel Anonuevo.

For details and schedules, visit the NFGB website, nfgbonline.com or call 709 0814.

WTJ derby April 19

THE LUZON Gamefowl Breeders Association's Bulilang Bulilo gets going Tuesday at WTJ Sports and Amusement Center in Makati City.

The entry fee is a measly P12,000. Participants must [illegible] [illegible] by April 18. [illegible] call 5680 800, 7261144 and 0908 2605911 for details.

Meanwhile, Pilas announced that breeders who joined the Luzon Sport's Bulilang Bulilo last March 27, will get a rebate on entry fee as approved recently by the Luzon board.

Subic triathlon draws fancied foreigners

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOREIGN TRIATHLETES from at least 17 countries pose a tough challenge to the Philippines' top bets in the 2011 Subic Bay International Triathlon on April 30 to May 1 at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales.

Over 600 racers have already signed up for the 10th edition of the event, one of the stops in the Asian Cup series that features competitions in the elite open, elite under-23, junior elite, adult, mini-sprint and relay.

"The expected big field will surely toughen up the competition making this year's ranging more exciting," said Tom Carrasco Jr., president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Triap).

"The rich prize also bring added challenge to the locals who will give their best against the foreigners both."

The swim-bike-run race, sanctioned by the International Triathlon Union (ITU) and the Asian Triathlon Confederation (ASTC), will fire off at the Hanjinwe Beach and end at the Waterfront Hotel, Central Business District.

Top local bet LC Gaspay, who finished fourth in last year's race, is expected to deliver again, as Kristy Concepcion just needs effort capturing the Asian Aquathlon crown in Triathlon.

Triathletes from the United States, Ireland, Israel, Hungary, Malta, New Zealand, Australia and Bermuda are among the foreigners vying for the title along with Australians.

Inquirer's MultiSport mag holds triathlon seminars

MULTISPORT PHILIPPINES, a monthly publication of Hinge Inquirer Publications, will hold its first-ever series of seminars on swim, bike and run starting on June 11 in different venues.

The series rolled 101 Swim Bike Run: The MultiSport Series will teach participants about correct techniques, injury prevention, proper nutrition and bond safe training, among others.

Coaches include triathletes Patrick Jones, Raoul Floresca, Miguel Lopez and Nonoy Joposo, running coach Jay Salon, multisport coach Jaci de Leon, swimming coaches Guy Emmerpoint and Anthony Lorenzo, triathlon coaches Peter Gonzalez, Ninoy Tolentino and Jojo Manalaysay and oval swimmer/runner Michelle Bonoan.

Clinic venues are Bonifacio High Street in Taguig, Glorietta in Makati, Alabang Town Center and Trinoma Mall in Quezon City.

For inquiries, send an e-mail to multisport101@gmail.com or call 4108833 loc. 101.

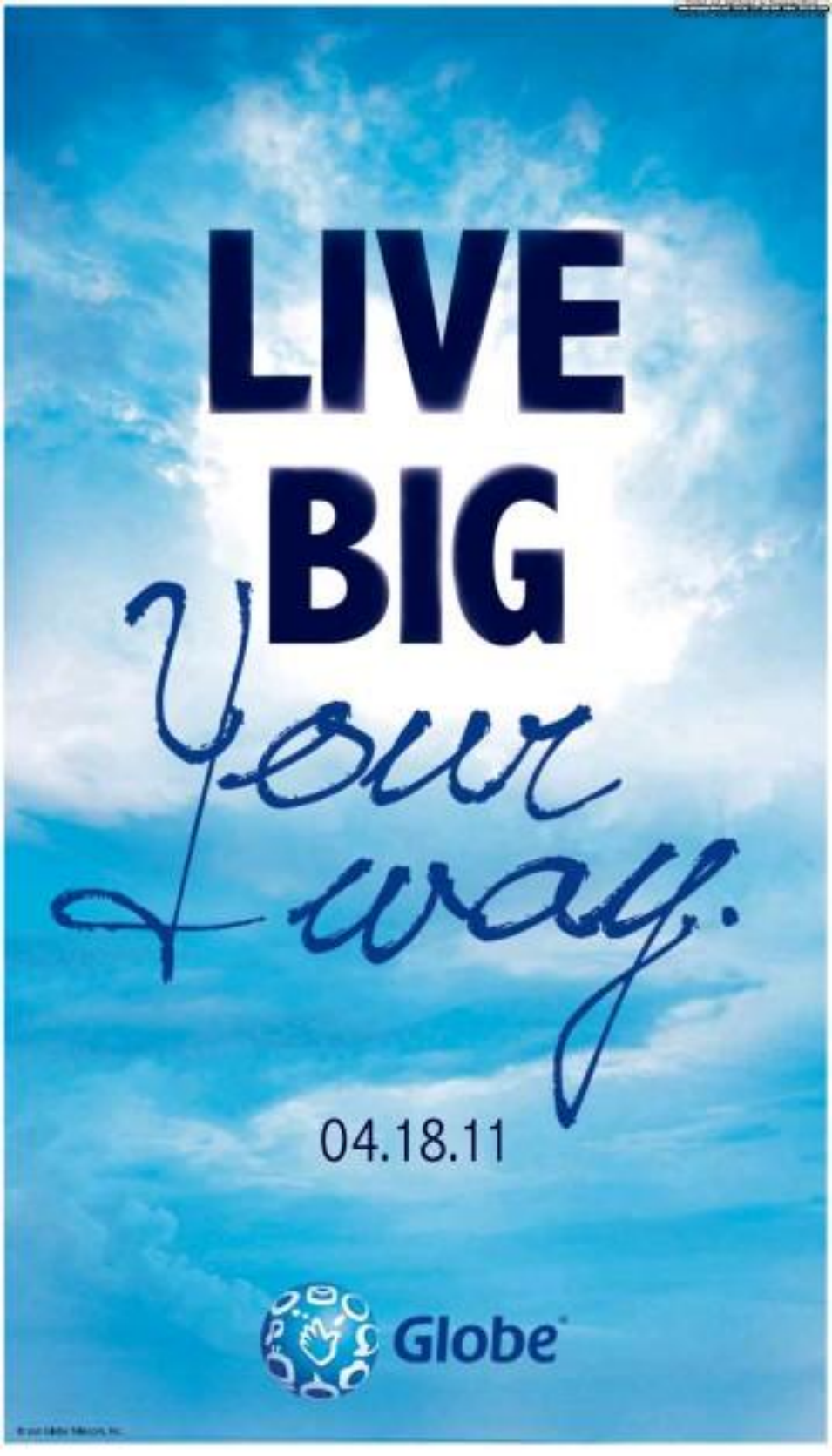
Kicksand beach football slated

SAND, 40 teams are seeking action in the three-leg 2011 Kicksand Beach Football Series which kicks off its first stop at the Subic Bay Waterfront this weekend.

Mikee Rivas, president of the organizing Beach Football Association of the Philippines (BFAP), said each squads in both men's and women's divisions are taking part in the Subic leg of the annual tournament.

Philippine Sports Commission chief Richie Garcia and Games and Amusements Board Chairman Lordy Lucero will grace the tournament.

The tournament moves to Batangas on May 28 and 29 and Davao on June 11 and 12.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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Manalo

Makati's young lifesavers on the move

Youths learn basic rescue skills, how to cope with emergencies

By Tina G. Santos

YOUNG trainees practice what they were taught on rescue and recovery operations, administering first aid and responding to emergency situations.

DON'T mistake their youth for ignorance. These kids are trained to deal with emergencies the professional way.

Armed with stretchers, first-aid kits and other emergency equipment, young members of the Makati's Barangay Emergency Response Team (Barpat) staff and organized technicians and skills in simulated rescue operations held near the old fork affected Silver Tower condominium.

The scenario: An explosion ruptured near the pipeline of the Legaspi-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC), leaving seven dead and many others wounded.

Although senior members of the rescue at times had to remind the playful volunteers to focus, all drills were executed without a hitch in a matter of minutes.

About a hundred young girls and boys, aged 11 to 19, make up the first batch of those who enrolled and passed the "Teen Rescue Summer Volunteer Program," one of Barangay Bangkal's many offerings for kids to learn and enjoy while on vacation from school.

While many of the barangay's summer programs for the youth are about sports, "this one is about saving lives," said barangay councilor Richard Ingalla, head of the project.

He said he thought of including the young members of the community in their emergency response trainings "so they could learn about how they should respond during emergencies and how they could help people in need."

Barangay administrator Roy Ordoñez added that the move was also brought about by the "tsunami" disasters around the West Tower area.

Police, firefighters and medical teams have remained on heightened alert since last week following the discovery of the oil leak that was traced to the pipeline located a few meters away from the building.

Barbel Contreras and Group at the building, the basement of which remains flooded with water contaminated with oil, said an evacuation continues.

Under the rescue volunteer program, the participants underwent three-day seminars on basic life support, bomb threat handling, and fire rescue and community first responder.

"They were taught basic first aid application, what they should do when they see suspicious packages, how they should respond during disasters like earthquakes, among many others," Ingalla has said.

But he added that the children's training will not stop when summers ends.

"We will continue training them even when school opens in June. We also intend to engage them in community services, mostly health and social services for senior citizens, during weekends," he said.

Francis Cosio, another barangay councilor, hoped that the kids were actually very eager to participate in actual emergency response operations.

"They were very excited to apply what they have learned during the sessions. They said they want to join our actual members, those who are on-duty 24/7," Cosio said.

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CAPT. Ephraim Lucanlan of Seair accompanies children from Smokey Mountain served by the environmentalist agency at the Manila Ocean Park. EDDA SANTOS

Smokey Mountain kids get a summer treat from Seair

By Jaymee T. Gamil

SIMPLY being kids at play doesn't come easily to the children of Smokey Mountain, the infamous dump site in Tondo, Manila.

Treated to a restaurant lunch, some of the children, by habit, saved a portion of their meals for their families at home. Some of them also had to be reminded not to "scavenge" the empty soda cans.

But just for a day, they were treated to the carefree lives their more privileged peers normally enjoy during summer.

For its 16th anniversary, local airline Seair (short for Seaborne Airlines) took a hundred kids from the Smokey Mountain community of Baka Bakahan, Tondo, to Ocean Park in Manila. The kids were led by 30 city and Kapuso Foundation—literally, as half of the kids were pilots on their days off, the other half airline staff.

"We thank the Lord for the 16 years he has blessed Seair, and this is our way of showing gratitude to Him and helping the less fortunate," Captain Ephraim "Lucky" Lucanlan said. Lucanlan, who is also a lay preacher, has been a pilot for Seair for 11 years.

While some kids were dressed for an aviator day out in shorts and rubber shoes, others still sported last night's clothes and slippers. Some had been to the area numerous before; others, including adults, were there for the first time. The children all had one thing in common, however: The excitement of discovery.

They chatted from one aquarium to another, pressing their hands and faces on the glass, ogling the colorful, exotic marine life. They eagerly sat down with picture books in the activity area, or played with the education displays like one illustrating the water cycle.

At lunch, they rushed to the tables, chewing and laughing with new friends. Some could be seen having photo-ops with and high-fiving their enclosure Mare Erebus.

How it should be

At the jellyfish aquarium, Rowena Rapanoy, 30, asked aloud, in Filipino: "They (the kids) live in this environment, right? They're here when touched?" Unlike protected kids exposed to clean seas, Rowena has never seen jellyfish in the wild, with the nearest ocean to her Tondo home being Manila Bay.

Of all the activities that day, Rowena was excited to see swimming. "It's my second time to go to a pool," she said, grinning.

"They know Manila Bay is to be polluted you can almost walk on the water. We wanted to show them what it should look like. I hope they'll take something back home from this trip. I hope they learn they can do something to make the world a better place, even if just a little," said Seair chief operating officer Patrick Tan.

Seair has partnered with humanitarian organization We Are International for Philippines (www.weareinternational.org.ph) in providing educational and basic services to the Smokey Mountain kids and their families. We International community relations officer Trina Batiste attests that most of the children present that day had parents engaged in scavenging.

Be kids, dream big

"When we started working in Smokey Mountain, it was the parents who were hesitant to send their kids to school. They changed their minds, eventually, but at first they just wanted their children to help in scavenging for family income," she narrated.

True enough, Rowena described that she usually spent her summers at home or attending to the neighbor's sari-sari store. After lunch, she could be seen carrying a plastic bag with an empty soda can, complete with straw. Used to lives of little learning, these children do not let anything, even trash, go to waste.

"Today, we just wanted to give them a day where they can just be kids," Batiste said. The Ocean Park trip was also a timely gift for some of the kids, who graduated from sixth grade just that morning.

When a group of female graduates were asked what they wanted to be when they grow up, some just joked they wanted to be actresses. Asked if they wanted to be pilots like their very guides for the day (the girls just shook their heads), "don't venture for that enjeneirro?" they asked sarcastically.

It's a mentality Seair driver Sir said we consider Silver Giants wants the children to grow out of. If there is one luxury he wants the kids to get from the trip, it is the luxury to dream big, and believe there is a real future waiting for them outside poverty.

"They have so few opportunities that come. Work hard, go to school, hope and pray for a better way to life," he means, after chatting with the kids about their dream jobs adventure and carefree concerns such as cartoon series "Spongebob Squarepants."

Ocean Park chosen to receive the Philippines for the past 16 years because the company has "helped me realize my life dream, for sure. I love the people, the country, the endless opportunities. It's a good place to live your life, [which]."

He hopes that, one day the Smokey Mountain kids would be able to see that, too.

MMDA puts traffic violators online

MANILA authorities are putting up pictures of speeding vehicles on an official website in an attempt to stop drivers from breaking the law on the Philippine capital's notoriously busy roads.

The snapshots, along with a listing of the speed of the vehicles and the time and date the photographs were taken, are designed to shame or even scare people into better driving.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority website (http://mmda.gov.ph/speeding/Violations.html) ... shows a succession of cars, vans and buses, with license plates visible, as they are caught by antispeeding cameras.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said in a statement the initiative were part of a new automated system where drivers are sent their speeding tickets later rather than being apprehended on the street.

Vince expressed by our cameras, there is no escape," Tolentino said.

More than 7,000 drivers have been caught on camera and sent tickets for exceeding the 60 kilometers per hour limit at that part of the metropolis, he added.

There has been a drop in the number of accidents on the highway as a result, he said without elaborating.

The automated picture system is only to have along the 12 kilometer Commonwealth avenue, site of frequent accidents due to speeding.

But Tolentino said he is studying putting the system in place in other major highways in the bustling city of over 11 million people. AFP

MetroBriefs

Makati to enforce coding scheme on April 19-28

THE MMDA government will continue to enforce the number coding scheme in the city on April 19 and 20. Makati Public Safety chief Senior Insp. Elio Miguel explained that those days are considered regular working days and traffic is not expected to lighten. But he said the scheme will be suspended on April 21 (Maundy Thursday) and April 22 (Good Friday) in observance of the Holy Week celebration. Under the scheme, vehicles with plate numbers ending in 3 and 4 are barred from city roads from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and on Wednesdays, it covers those with plate numbers ending in 5 and 6. The 10a.m. to 2 p.m. window is not observed in Makati. Earlier, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority lifted the number coding scheme starting April 18 to April 22. Sheryl C. Zamora

Man shot and killed by adopted son

A 54-YEAR-OLD man was critically wounded after his son allegedly shot him in the head by his adopted son inside their house at the posh Ayala Malaking Village in Mandaluyong City Saturday afternoon. Supt. Eleazar Matta, the city police chief, said victim Emmanuel Castillo, 54, lives at Block 4, Ayala Malaking Village, sustained a gunshot wound in the head and was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital. The suspect, Erich Castillo, 20, was taken into police custody. Matta said they were still trying to determine the motive behind the incident. Tina G. Santos

Rotary Club of Parañaque raffle reset to July 9

THE "PROYEKTONG Pinatrabaho" raffle to be conducted by the Rotary Club of Parañaque City on April 30 has been rescheduled to July 9, according to Rotarians and project chair Jimmy Lazaro. The raffle will be conducted at the SM Parañaque Mall. Proceeds of the raffle (P1 million in cash) will be improved. Other incentives and prizes have been added on top of the trips he has to the United States and Singapore, plus 12 consolation prizes. For details, call Jimmy Lazaro at 8825-6617/421.

Girl sent to buy salted eggs found dead in creek

AN 8-YEAR- OLD girl sent to a convenience store to buy salted eggs, never returned home four days after and was found dead in a creek early yesterday morning. Reading an update in Manila. The body of Elma Opsan, of Carmelo Street in Sta. Ana, was fished out of the Estero de Pandacan by Barangay 886 Zone 86 watchmen at about 10 hours after she was reported missing. Police said the father of the victim asked the help of barangay officials after his daughter failed to return home from an errand. Their search proved fruitful, however. It was only yesterday morning that the body was found in the creek. Jeannette I. Andrade

Nightcap turns tragic for cab driver

A CAB driver who was having a nightcap with friends at a neighborhood store was shot dead by a gunman who sneaked up on him in Malabon City in Caloocan City. Police identified the victim as Miguel Talon, 48, of San Roque in Cebu. Police said Talon was with three friends having a drink at a store on Concordia Street in Caloocan at around 9:30 p.m. when the assailant got off a bike, walked toward Talon, and shot him on the back of his head. Talon died on the spot. The suspect then fled on board the bike driven by a companion. Julie M. Aurelio and Nikko Joshua Dimino

Ignore ranking game, UP Manila grads told

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE CHANCELLOR of the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila urged yesterday its latest batch of graduates to be resourceful and creative. He leaders as he stressed that the university's success is not limited to the "ranking game" in the Asian region.

Hailing today's 1,000 commencement members at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), UP Manila chancellor Homer Saludo exhorted the entire 6,971 graduates to be upright citizens and persons of honor and integrity, saying, "The university's goal is to solve problems who will love and serve their country and people, women and men who will attend to the needs of the underserved and marginalized Filipinos."

He emphasized that the school is not interested in joining the university rating or ranking game in the Asian region which he described as a "interventional activity."

"Our teaching and learning environment is not geared to pass a board examination. Our graduating classes, however, are usually at the top like Medicine and the annual 100% passing in dentistry, 100% in Pharmacy and 100% in Nursing, among others," he stated.

About half of UP Manila's graduates normally take the professional licensure examinations in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and biochemistry.

Saludo added, "My wish is that when people speak of UP graduates, the value will not be based only on academic excellence. My hope is that when UP graduates start actual work, they would be recognized because of honest, dedicated, and sustained quality service whatever the circumstances. We, at UP Manila, would love to hear when people praise our graduates this way: 'UP yan, kaya magaling, mapagsilbi, matiempo, magaling sa mga pagsubok sa buhay.'"

Makati's young lifesavers on the move

From page A 23

"Maybe we can initially allow them to join the operations but they will be there just to observe. But as they get better, then maybe we could allow them eventually," he added, saying they also look forward to the time when the kids could already respond to emergencies on their own.

The barangay officials said they were surprised at the response they got when the registration for the program opened early this month.

"We did not expect that a lot of kids would enroll. We intend to open another registration for another batch because there were still so many who signified intention to join," Ordiales said, adding they intend to involve the program in every barangay fiesta.

Ordiales, who himself enrolled his 15-year-old daughter to the program, said most parents want their children to participate in the activity because they see it as better way of spending the summer vacation.

"Instead of seeing their children waste their time by playing computer games in neighborhood internet shops, the parents said they would rather see their kids get involved in worthwhile activities such as this," he said.

Angelo Hilario and Russell Elleng, both 13 years old and in coming grade six students, were among the youngest members of the team. Both insisted that their mothers were the ones who pushed them to participate in the activity.

But both kids said they were glad their moms encouraged them to join because they not only enjoyed the experience, they also learned new skills and gained new friends.

"More than the experience, what they would learn from the program is an achievement in itself," said Augusto Manguiobo, another barangay official.

"Imagine the things I learned from rescue training when I was 17, these kids learned at the age of 11," added Cesar.

"And they can taught me just simple skills. There are simple valuable lessons they could apply not just for preservation, but more importantly, they could use them to save the lives of their loved ones and other people," added Napoleonas.

THE TRAINING program provides a better summer activity to the youths.

Smartphone 101 : Part 3

Meet your Match

Find the perfect smartphone for you

Feeling the smartphone groove yet? For the past two weeks, we've been giving you the rundown on all things smartphone. We discovered how these devices have stopped being just mobile telephones and transformed into optimum and prime machines in our hands. Moreover, we learned that there are applications or apps that make the possibilities for these smartphones virtually unlimited.

True, the smartphone age is upon us. Don't say you didn't notice! Just check the Internet, watch TV and read the papers and magazines (Drop you can do through smartphones), by the way) and you'll see a range of smartphones in all shapes, sizes and capabilities too.

Each smartphone is designed with a target profile in mind, with the manufacturers adjusting and enhancing some key features and specifications to fit the prospective user. And with a variety of smartphone choices and a barrage of each device's characteristics and brags, the last thing we want to happen is to get overwhelmed and confused. Because that's not what smartphones stand for! They're supposed to make our lives easier!

So here we are again to guide you, this time in your search for the perfect smartphone. Be clear just like in the proverbial fish in the sea adage, no matter who you are and what you do, somewhere out there is a smartphone waiten for you. Let's begin!

FOR THE SOCIAL NETWORKER
HTC Desire S

This is for those who can convert mental daydreams to endless text pieces of art - chumbridge who can't be without screenshots or documentations who capture stories and memories through videos. They all these subbeted to social networking sites. The HTC Desire S' HD camera and video recorder can take crystal clear images and clips, brilliantly cleaned through its large 3.7 inch screen.

- Powered by Android 2.3
- 8 megapixel rear camera with auto focus and powerful LED flash
- 720p HD video recording
- VGA color fixed focus front camera

FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT BUFF
Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc

Like listening to music and watching videos on the go? Listen to your audio library in style and with the audio expertise Sony has been known for. The Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc also utilizes Sony's BRAVIA technology - the same technology that allows crisp and vivid "reality display" in TV, but this time, optimized for mobile viewing. The arc also enables motion-controlled games for the gaming addicts.

- Powered by Android 2.3
- Comes with Sony Ericsson multi-format Music Player
- Download music and games with PlayNow
- Video streaming, Motion Gaming, 3D Games

FOR THE ON-THE-GO PROFESSIONAL
BlackBerry Torch

The BlackBerry Torch gives all the functionalities you need to get the job done. It is connected with intuitive menus, universal search and integrated social feeds allowing you to view simultaneously and update all your accounts in one post. It has an enhanced touchscreen for more responsive typing, but you can also use its sliding keypad if you prefer the physical keys. Great for non-stop messaging through BlackBerry Messenger or other IM platforms like Yahoo Messenger.

- BlackBerry 6 OS
- Trackpad and Keyboard Backlighting
- Light sensing proximity detecting screen
- Access to BlackBerry Enterprise services

FOR THE INFO JUNKIE
Samsung Galaxy Tab

With its 7 inch touch screen, it is the ideal device for reading e-books, magazines, newspapers and other digital schools. With just the right size, it is perfect for lugging around to edit your view documents, show video clips, photo sliders and presentations to peers, and access a variety of information through apps or the built-in browser.

- Android 2.2 OS
- With WiFi and 3G/HSPA connectivity
- Expandable memory through SD cards
- Built-in document and e-reader apps

FOR THE MODERN ENTREPRENEUR
Nokia E7

Are you always on the go but you need to be always connected? Break free from the office wires and roam freely with the Nokia E7. With integrated e-mail and social network plus Nokia's business apps, you're always within reach and your ideas are always heard. Touch, type and connect all day long with a combined touch screen and QWERTY keypad. Who knew multitasking can be this stylish!

- Customizable home pages
- Personal information management
- Unified e-mail clients for multiple e-mail platforms
- Attachment support for office document formats

These are just some of the smartphones available today and they are all being offered by SMART Communications. These are just representative of the variety of devices that SMART has lined up for its subscribers who seek to be smartphone-powered. SMART has a full line up of super-smartphones meant to cater to different users with varying lifestyles, whether you're leaning toward the Android side, or the BlackBerry corner, or whether you think you're a Windows Phone or Nokia Symbian Squad, SMART has got all your smartphone needs and wants covered.

Made your choice yet? We sure hope so. Remember though that the features mentioned above are just the highlights. These are all smartphones after all. They have key strengths and features, but they're all fully customizable and adjustable with literally thousands of apps that can make your smartphone of choice truly useful and even more personally truly yours.

Your smartphone's must have apps:

HTC Desire S

WhatsApp Messenger is a cross-platform mobile messaging app. It utilizes your existing data plan to help you stay in touch with family and friends without additional cost!

3D Xperia Arc

Flixter brings movie and DVD information on your smartphone. It gives you the latest showtimes, box office information, movie trailers, and reviews!

BlackBerry Torch

BlackBerry® Messenger brings away. Chat and share funny videos, pictures, videos and more instantly! Enjoy this app with SMART Bro Elite's Unlimited Data Plan.

Samsung Galaxy Tab

Pressreader brings over 1,800 full content newspapers from 90 countries in 56 languages!

Nokia E7

Ovi Maps is fun-filled with enhanced pedestrian and drive navigation. You can now discover new places, connect to services, share and sync with maps on your mobile.

SMART

CHEVROLET CRUZE

SPREAD THE LOVE.

More and more people are loving the Chevy! Putting on the Cherry Cruze LS Box LT was recently named as the 2010-2011 Philippine Car of the Year. Who wouldn't fall in love with the Cruze's winning combination of overall great looks that offers value for money based with reliability from a brand with 100 years of automotive heritage and a five-star safety rating from NCAP that guarantees a great driving experience and more.

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CHEVROLET DEALERS

Chevrolet Cruze Wins 2010-2011 Car of the Year

The first American Brand to win the Award

The verdict is out on the Philippines' 2010-2011 Car of the Year award and Chevrolet Cruze made itself the way to the top. Beating 16 vehicles under 14 categories that range from mini sports car to beer pickup, the overall plum sportscar ultimately awarded to Chevrolet in a ceremony that co-incided with the launch of the Pilipinas International Auto Show at The World Trade Center last April 7, 2011.

The Chevrolet Cruze is certainly no stranger to awards having already been lauded the year's "Car of the Year" in Thailand, "Urban Car of the Year" in North America this season and "Canadian Car of The Year" in February. Definitely, adding more reasons to love this Chevy. The award also validated Chevrolet's claim when it comes to providing more value for money. The Cruze's winning combination of overall great looks that offers affordability, fusion of iconic and ultra-modern design language, a five-star safety rating from NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), and a great driving experience just never fails to entertain even across the board. Adding to that now is 5 years of assured quality and peace of mind through the Chevy 5-year warranty program. The fact that the Cruze is Kind of a "car of many hats on car aficionados' hats was not lost on the judges.

Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAG) is the award-giving body responsible for the Car of The Year award. Run by 36 plus journalists from different motoring publications and media outlets, they are united in the voice of providing Filipino motorists a bias-free and definitive guide to making the right car choices.

For outstanding PERFORMANCE and PRACTICALITY, there's no mistake that Chevrolet Cruze can outperform its competitors when you factor in function and value for money as it combines to deliver an ultimate driving experience through these features:

- Driver adaptive system through 6-speed automatic transmission with manual mode
- Drive-by-wire technology
- High-speed fiber-optic harness architecture that eliminates noise, vibration and roughness
- Recommended fuel source of 91 octane gasoline but Cruze can run on 87 octane gasoline
- Low cost of ownership due to extended 10,000km/6 PMS intervals

For Award-leading DESIGN and maximum BUILD QUALITY, the Chevrolet Cruze provides added appeal and confidence in your every drive with the following features:

- Sporty Coupe-inspired styling
- 17" Rims
- Built-in Fog Lamps
- Corvette-Inspired Dual Cockpit Layout
- Minimal exterior and interior panel gaps
- Superior noise and vibration insulation systems

WY!
CAR of the YEAR
OF
E YEAR
CRUZE
CRUZE
CHEVROLET

...b COMFORT and CONVENIENCE that let you drive ...thought of, and more of the uses that only Chevrolet ...delivers without breaking the bank:
...LED option lighting for instrumentation
...and controls
...leather seats
...audio system that includes USB and AUX ports
...quality speaker corners
...mounted audio controls
...multi-information display
...of standard power amenities
...power - steering, windows and door locks
...retractable side view mirrors
...park assist
...distancing reverse chime
...control and vehicle stability enhancement system
...sensing wipers
...Climate Control
...adjustable driver's seat power with adjustable tilt
...epic steering wheel
...with integrated audio, entry system and cruise
...and tongue-in-toe class interior space

Managing Director and CEO of Chevrolet Philippines – The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCCCI), Atty. Albert Arcilla is enthusiastic standing the Junior who got their votes for the Cruze. "We've always believed that the Cruze is a car of great value and quality. Furthermore, we are thankful that the GM Dynasty are one with us in believing the same and for making it official. When we introduced the Chevy Cruze, we really knew that this model will be appreciated in every place it is. This is our first time to join this competition and this recognition will certainly motivate us to continue in our pursuit of providing excellent vehicles to cater to the needs of the Filipino market. This will be another reason why we "Love this Chevy."

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibarra

Nuke plants told to be quake ready

TOKYO—An aftershock jolted Japan on Saturday hours after the country's nuclear safety agency ordered plant operators to beef up their earthquake-preparedness systems to prevent a recurrence of the nuclear crisis roiling the region north of Tokyo.

There were no initial reports of damage from the magnitude-5.9 aftershock, and there was no risk of imminent meltdown at the same last month that crippled the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant, causing Japan's worst-ever nuclear plant disaster. Japan has been hit by a string of smaller quakes since the magnitude-9.0 earthquake hit the country on March 11.

Meanwhile, the newspaper Asahi Shimbun, citing no sources, reported that a secret plan to dismantle Tokyo Electric Power Co., which runs the radiation-leaking Fukushima plant, was circulating within the government. The proposal calls for putting Tepco, the world's largest private electricity company, under state government supervision before pushing it to bankruptcy and thoroughly restructuring its assets. But government officers were closed Saturday, and the report could not be immediately confirmed.

In the wake of the nuclear crisis, the government ordered 11 nuclear plant operators to check and improve tsunami-proof locks to avoid a repeat of the hydrogen-related mishaps that could cause safety systems to fail as they did at the Fukushima plant, Hidehiko Nishiyama of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency told reporters late Friday. The operators, including Tepco, have to report back by May 16.

Power outages during a strong aftershock on April 7 drove home the need to ensure that plants are able to continue to operate crucial cooling systems and other equipment despite earthquakes, tsunamis and other disasters, Nishiyama said.

Utility companies were ordered to reinforce the quake-resistance of power lines connected to each reactor or to rebuild them. They also must store all electrical equipment in watertight containers. Earlier, the nuclear agency had ordered plant operators to store at least two emergency backup generators per reactor and to install fire pumps and power supply vehicles as further precautions.

Tepco announced last week that the 1st-ltr last month touched our emergency generators meant to power cooling systems. Since then, explosions, fires and other troubles have compounded efforts by Tepco to repair the plant and stem radiation leaks.

Goshi Hosono, an adviser to the prime minister and member of the nuclear crisis management task force, said the damaged reactors were much more stable than they had been earlier, so the order and Tepco was preparing to unveil a plan for restoring cooling capacity to the ailing reactors "soon."

"Fukushima are still jolted up and we are far from the end of crisis," he told a TV news program, citing continued aid vs. as the biggest headaches. "I expect there would be more recessions than we have to finish over."

On Saturday, Tepco began dumping sandbags filled with zeolite, a mineral that absorbs radioactive cesium, into the sea in areas heavily contaminated with radiation in an effort to reduce damage from the leaks.

The crisis at the Fukushima plant has forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate to avoid exposure to radiation. On Friday, Tepco announced plans for 1 trillion yen ($12,000) to each evacuated household in an initial round of compensation, which it expects to cost 50 billion yen ($600 million). Income meant for the utility, Tepco President Masataka Shimizu said the company would consider cutting executive salaries as well as a number of its more than 52,000 employees.

Radiation leaks from the crisis have contaminated crops and left fishermen in the region unable to sell their catches, adding to the suffering of communities already devastated by earthquakes and tsunami damage. AP

Church 'stupefied' at bishop's new sex abuse

BRUSSELS—The Roman Catholic Church was left "stupefied" Friday as Belgium reacted with revulsion to new child sex abuse horrors admitted by an ex-bishop that the Vatican placed to exile rather than face such publicity.

Roger Vangheluwe told Belgian television that he abused one nephew for 13 years and another for nearly 12 months—but that there was "no premeditation" and that he did not "in the slightest" think he was a pedophile.

Days after Church bosses ordered Vangheluwe to undergo "spiritual and psychological treatment" in a French-Italian shrine, Pope Benedict XVI called Belgium's prime Minister Yves Leterme and his remarks he said "go beyond the boundary of what is acceptable". "The Church must assume its responsibilities...this cannot occur," Leterme insisted.

Belgium's bishops likewise expressed collective "shock" at statements "playing down" and "offering excuses" for years spent sexually abusing boys while preaching from a pulpit and a Thursday visit to the opponents they said contravened strict orders from Rome.

"We trained him to withdraw to silence abroad," a statement said.

In the Vatican City Pope Benedict XVI's spokesman Federico Lombardi called Holy See was "conscious of the gravity" of Vangheluwe's case, and was unscrambling "the necessary elements" for a "definitive evaluation". AFP

A WOMAN sits atop chairs for an upcoming parade to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs failed invasion at Revolution Square on Plaza de la Revolucion in Havana, Cuba, on Friday. The parade, that marks the anniversary of the failed 1961 invasion by US-backed Cuban exiles, takes place Saturday. →

Cuba marks 50 years of socialism

HAVANA—Cuba marked a huge military parade Saturday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its victory over the CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion for a Communist Party congress setting out new political and economic goals.

Farmers, electricians and audio operators put the finishing touches on Plaza de la Revolucion, as troops drove tanks and other military vehicles to the designated location along the streets.

Children, youth and veterans will precede the parade of troops and weaponry, head television reported.

As a symbol of the revolution's future, thousands of students will bring up the rear of the parade, after which the Cuban Communist Party will begin its first party congress in 14 years.

Tens of thousands of Havana residents have been invited to participate in the parade by their student organizations, trade unions and the Communists for the 50th of the Brezhnevian community groups that promote social welfare.

A little ways away from the square, masons and painters were working overtime to renovate the street corner where leader Fidel Castro declared that the socialist character of the revolution, a day before 1,400 US-backed Cuban exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs.

Within just 72 hours of bloody combat on Playa Larga and Playa Giron, 200 kilometers away, Castro and Havana had routed out the invaders in what Cuba celebrates as "the first great defeat of imperialism in Latin America." During the Communist Party congress, thousands of delegates are to vote on economic reforms proposed by President Raul Castro, update the country's one party political system, and reform its economy—or so rebels are asking 80-year-old Fidel as party leader.

Blaming "either we change course or we sink," the 79-year-old Raul answered the congress to recast Cuba's Soviet-style centralized economy "within the socialist principles" or dooming to "irreversible" failure. AFP

Chernobyl survivor still supports nuclear energy

SINGAPORE—It happened a quarter of a century ago but Sergei Belyakov still remembers vividly how much he suffered three high doses he received after the Chernobyl nuclear plant meltdown.

"I was extremely weak, my motion senses were altered and I had difficulty breathing normally," said the Ukrainian born scientist, part of a team of clean-up crew assigned to tackle the world's worst nuclear plant disaster.

Belyakov could not even muster the strength to play his favorite sport, football, for more than a year after Chernobyl and says he still suffers from the lingering effects of exposure during a 40-day stint at the stricken plant.

But as the world prepares to mark the 25th anniversary of the April 26, 1986 Chernobyl incident, Belyakov is unfazed by the ongoing emergency at the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan. Belyakov still believes in nuclear energy.

"Despite the fact that I was deeply affected personally, I still really believe that this is the only choice for us," he said.

"We don't have any other choices because we are going to run out eventually of oil...we are going to run out of coal," he told AFP.

A worn-sized patch of skin on his neck which was exposed to the air in Chernobyl has lost pigmentation, but Belyakov prefers not to talk in detail about his current health conditions.

"It's just too private, I can tell you this, I am seemingly physically OK but I am not," said the 53-year-old nanotechnology researcher now working in Singapore for SMRI, a US chemical research firm.

Japan is battling to contain the Fukushima nuclear emergency to a maximum seven on an international scale of atomic return, the first time the highest ranking has been invoked since the Chernobyl disaster.

It has been struggling to bring the emergency under control since the March 11 quake-tsunami disaster crippled the Fukushima plant's cooling system.

The quake and tsunami killed 13,000 people and left 14,000 unaccounted for.

WORLDBRIEFS

9 killed in Afghanistan suicide blast

JALALABAD—Five international troops and four Afghan soldiers died in a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban at the highest army's headquarters in the war-torn country's east, officials said. It was carried out by a suicide bomber wearing an Afghan army uniform at the base in the Gandesh district area in Laghman province, near Jalalabad city. She de facto capital of Afghanistan's east. "Five international Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died following an insurgent attack against a Afghan Army base in Laghman province," Tuesday," Tuesday. Afghanistan's defense ministry said that four Afghan army personnel were killed and eight people were wounded, including four translators. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the attack via a telephone call to AEP. AFP

World oldest man dies at age 114

LOS ANGELES—The world's oldest man, Walter Breuning, whose first memories included the day US president William McKinley was shot in 1901, has died at age 114, an official at the retirement home where he lived said Friday. "He died the yesterday afternoon" of natural causes, at a hospital in Great Falls, in the US state of Montana, said Shana Wehrly, spokeswoman for Rainbow Senior Living retirement home. Breuning, born Sept. 21, 1896, was the second-oldest person in the world, just 26 days younger than American woman Elenor Cooper. She world's oldest living person, according to the Gerontology Research Group which tracks the world's oldest centenarians. AFP

BREUNING →

Ex-Croatian generals jailed for war crimes

THE HAGUE—Judges sentenced two retired Croatian generals to lengthy jail terms Friday for war crimes committed in one of the bloodiest episodes of the 1991-95 Balkans conflict, angering supporters and the Zagreb government. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) gave Ante Gotovina 24 years and his co-accused Mladen Markac 18 years for war crimes and crimes against humanity but acquitted their defendant Ivan Cermak. The court rebuffed Zagreb by backing the prosecution claim of a "joint criminal enterprise" with late Croatian president Franjo Tudjman, aimed at driving Croatian Serbs out of their "ancestral homelands" in the western Krajina region. The prosecution said 200 Serbs were killed and "close to 90,000 Serbs were forcibly displaced with the clear intention that they never return" after an offensive led by Gotovina and dubbed Operation Storm that recaptured Krajina from Serb rebels in 1995. AP

Ivory Coast life begins to recover

ABIDJAN—Ivory Coast's slow recovery after four months of bloodshed gained some momentum Saturday as Alassane Ouattara's embattled regime reopened its borders, cocoa exports and its newspapers. The reemergence of the West African state's ports, rivers, TG Toblerone, sandalwoods would resume on April 16 and markets have begun to shift a 400,000 ton backlog of cocoa that built up during the conflict. AP

Nato runs out of bombs

WASHINGTON—Nato is running short of precision-bombs and other munitions in its Libyan operations against the forces of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, The Washington Post reported late Friday.

Citing unnamed senior Nato and US officials, the newspaper said the shortage highlights the limitations of Britain, France and other European countries in maintaining even a relatively small military action.

The scope of the problem was not mentioned.

The shortage of European munitions, along with the limited number of aircraft available, has raised doubts among some officials about whether the United States can continue to avoid returning to the air campaign, the report said.

So far, the Nato commander has not requested their deployment. The first ousted.

But several US military officials said they anticipated being called back into the fight, the paper said.

Washington pulled back around 50 combat planes from Libyan operations last week after handing over control of the mission to Nato, although most then they took part in some sorties to take out Gadhafi's air defense systems.

Currently, only six out of 28 nations are conducting air strikes: France and Britain carry out half of them. The other half are conducted by Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Canada. AFP

"Ours is no great nation. Ours is no nation. Ours to build a better Philippines and a better America."

—US Ambassador-to-be Philippines Harry Thomas Jr.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Lilen Monica Perla

Send feedback, comments and suggestions on globalpinoy@inquirer.net

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Inside the space shuttle

By Pete C. Goudio Jr.
Contributor

SEPTEMBER 10, 2000, a Filipino from the outskirts of Northern Samar entered the outer confines of Space Shuttle Atlantis in the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, while it was being refurbished, tested and inspected in preparation for its next launch.

Jenny Acebron Carlos gingerly felt the cold inside the spaceship, wondering how the massive piece of steel would shoot in blinding speed into outer space carrying its brave human passengers and return safely back to earth.

Jenny did not enter the space shuttle as the first Filipino astronaut. He thinks Leroy, the friendly janitor who mops the floors of the Vehicle Assembly Building, has been employed by the US space agency for more than 20 years.

Jenny, however, had an equally important mission at the Space Center. Her main chore as part of a team of financial analysts was to monitor the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Center, the US agency responsible for the development of advanced aviation and space exploration.

As accountants, Jenny regularly monitors annual budget reviews, and the month-level and year-to-date status reports. So far, she has visited the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California; Kennedy Space Center in Florida; Marshall Space Center, Houston, Texas; and White Sands Space Facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

At her work, Jenny analyzes and consolidates Nasa's total budget estimates and justifications to be incorporated in the US President's federal budget that is submitted to the US Congress for deliberation and approval.

In 2008 and 2009, she took part in Nasa's Congressional Operational Initiative which took up budget and manage planning.

JENNY'S JOURNEY Behind Jenny is the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), a premier observatory scheduled for launch in 2014 to study the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth. Above, Jenny with husband Edison Carlos and children, Shari and Jason.

Samareño Jenny Acebron-Carlos is not an astronaut but she has an equally important mission .... She's a budget analyst

Joining Nasa

Jenny joined Nasa headquarters in 2005 when she was chosen as senior accountant in the office of the Chief Financial Officer, Financial Management Office.

How and when did she join the US government?

She is a recipient in Quezon City Science High School's four-year scholarship program sponsored by the wedding of her boss. Jenny shared her experiences with classmates and family friends.

She said she started her US federal career in 1985 when she landed a job as an accountant in the office of Naval Intelligence in Washington DC. Later, she moved to the Department of Defense.

In 1998, feeling ripe for a more challenging assignment, Jenny pursued her Dream to work in State as an accountant in its Division of Administration.

This new job gave her new challenges and she enjoyed it because it entailed conducting on-site audits of some US embassies overseas. This brought Jenny to many Asian countries, including Jakarta, Indonesia and Manila. During her first Philippine assignment, she recalled, she did her best time to visit her folks in her home province because of her limited time.

Jenny has been the recipient of several achievement awards and citations, among them the Outstanding Service Award, Nasa, 2007-2009; Project Management Information Improvement Award, Nasa; Achievement Award for Outstanding Work, Dsn, 2005; Citation of the Quarters Award for Outstanding Service, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (Bumed) 2001; Special Administration Award, Bumed, 2007-2008; and Outstanding Award, Office of Naval Intelligence in 1998.

Exceptional initiative

Also in 2001, she received Bumed's Employee of the Year Award "for exceptional initiative, devotion to duty and outstanding service in keeping with the highest traditions of the federal service."

Engineer Edison Carlos, her husband, had considered her to join him in the United States in 1998. The couple first met in Makati while they were waiting their respective carrers, and became engaged in 1981.

Edison had heard his then job in the US federal government where her joined the US Navy in 1985. In Jenny's present career in the United States she admits it is her husband who is behind her success, giving her his encouragement and inspiration. "Behind is a man of the times behind the success of a woman, are the other way around, she had quipped.

"It Jenny's inclinations in her hometown in Northern Samar, her present success is somewhat a big surprise to them because of her humble origins.

She was born on March 20, 1961, in Catubig, a fourth class municipality in Northern Samar, prone to typhoons and floods half of the year.

Her parents were Melchido Acebron, a local musician and Crispina Balcoba Acebron a public school teacher. The couple had seven children and Jenny is the second to the youngest.

It is to the credit of Jenny's teacher mother, practically the sole provider, that all seven children were able to finish college. Jenny finished her bachelor's degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting, at the University of the Visayas in Cebu City in 1980.

Jenny and Edison are blessed with two children. Shari, a fresh graduate in Health Services Administration and Jason a junior in civil and structural engineering. They live in a two-storey house in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Friends of Jenny, who visited Nil on March 20, attribute her success to her strong determination to succeed in life, foresight, a strong closeknit Filipino and guidance in work, and above all, a strong faith in God nurtured in her youth.

Last year she was the graduation speaker in a private high school in her native town, inspiring many to seek success—at last in the Philippine in other parts of the world.

OFWs need sex education

DHARAVI Filipino Workers (OFW) comprise one-fourth of the 8,526 total cases listed in the National HIV and AIDS Registry, according to Rep. Amel Ty of the party-list group LPGMA.

Ty is pushing for a review of the 1998 AIDS Prevention and Control Law to find ways to reinforce the fight against the sexually transmitted disease. He is also appealing for increased public funding for prevention of HIV/AIDS education.

In House Resolution 1524, Ty cites the need for Congress to ascertain whether existing policies and measures in the 11-year-old law are sufficient to quell the HIV/AIDS epidemic and improve the condition of OFWs and other Filipinos living with the disease.

"There is no question that HIV/AIDS is ravaging our OFWs," Ty said, adding they are extremely susceptible to the disease owing to their "high-risk sexual behavior" when they are outside the country.

Ty cites a total of 1,569 OFWs, with the median age of 26 years, have been found to either HIV positive or with full-blown acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) since the country began passive surveillance of the disease in 1984.

He said 90 percent or 1,406 of the OFWs with HIV/AIDS acquired the disease through unprotected sexual contact.

Up and 75 percent of all OFWs diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are males. Of the 56 OFWs reported HIV positive in January and February, 30 were males and six were females.

He said preventive education was "remains the best defense against possible infection." He urged the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to increase their aggressivity in prevention drives.

There is no known cure or vaccine for HIV/AIDS, although treatments can slow the course of the disease, classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

Hundreds of Filipino teachers in Maryland face uncertainties

LAST MONTH, Brenda received chilling news from her employers. After being recruited and spending two years as a teacher in the United States, she was told that her contract would end, saying she was not going to be extended after September 2011. She would have to leave the United States to avoid falling out of status. She was also informed that like many of her colleagues, she was not eligible for her green card petition.

Brenda represents hundreds of Filipino teachers who were affected by a decision rendered by the US Department of Labor on April 4, 2011. Most of the teachers who worked for the Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland stand to lose their status if they do not explore other legal options for staying in the United States.

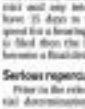
$4-million penalties

Beginning in 2005, the Prince George County's Public School system recruited more than 2,000 foreign teachers mainly from the Philippines. These teachers were given H-1B visas or the temporary nonimmigrant professional worker visa.

To protect US citizens and permanent residents who may be affected by the hiring of foreign nationals, US immigration law imposes certain conditions on US employers. Some of the conditions included in a form called Labor Condition Application (LCA) filed with the US Department of Labor are: (1) that the H1B workers must be paid the prevailing wage at implemented in the petition; and, (2) no cost of performing the work or shall be assumed on the foreign worker, including filing fees and legal fees.

The US Department of Labor conducted an investigation on the hiring practices of the teachers hired by the Prince George's County Public Schools. Serious violations were found. According to the findings, it was determined that this school district willfully failed to pay wages as required by law and also failed to maintain documentation as attested to in the labor condition application.

As a result of the violations, the school district was assessed a civil money penalty in the amount of $1.746 million and is required to pay back wages in the amount of $4,394,546.30 to 3,044 mostly Filipino teachers. The lower determination made public by the US Department of Labor stated that the school district has, or has only paid $171,480 and still owes the teachers $4,222,146.31.



IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancioco

The decision of the US Department of Labor was issued very recently and the school district and any interested party have 15 days to appeal or request for a hearing. If no appeal is filed then the findings shall become a final determination.

Serious repercussions

Prior to the release of this crucial determination by the US Department of Labor, hundreds of H1B teachers were receiving notices from their school's human resources office. At least three investigators have been dispatched to explain to the teachers that they will no longer extend H1B visas for those teaching in "nontitled" areas.

These informational meetings held by their employers created a rumpus among the H1B teachers especially among those whose visas are due for extension. In a letter to the Board of Education, an association of Filipino teachers expressed their sentiments claiming "unlawful dismissal" despite promises of tenure. According to them, they are being discriminated against in violation of their civil rights.

Carlos S. Pampam, President of the Filipino Education Network, questioned the Prince George's County Public Schools' "Why the sudden dismissal of our teachers? We are actively recruited in the Philippines. With a promise of renewal jobs for at least three years, we paid huge amounts of recruitment fees, to the extent of selling real properties, just to secure a permanent job in the US. Despite our excellent performances and satisfactory evaluations, we are being dismissed without legal basis other than the fact that we are foreign hirelings."

In addition to most of these teachers, the change in policy of their employers may be the result of the investigation that was then being conducted by the US Department of Labor. Their employers seemed to be motivated by the financial incentive of a possible huge penalty that may be imposed on them. Their public release statement was that the dismissal and change in hiring policy was a result of "budget cuts."

No petitions

Aside from the assessment of $4 million in back wages, the Prince George Public School District also faces debarment. They are denied the opportunity to sponsor any more foreign national teachers either for H1B status or for lifetime permanent residence visas. This debarment will become effective only if the determination of the US Department of Labor becomes final.

The Filipino teachers affected by these findings will receive their back wages as a result of this investigation. What is uncertain at this point is their displacement if their visas are no longer going to be extended. There are those who were lucky enough to have already obtained their green cards. But those who still have pending petitions for permanent visas and those whose H1B visas are expiring may have to explore their options.

Many of these hungry homes and work hard to bring consistently with their family before results of the investigation was released. Now they are having an uncertain future.

One of their options is to find a new US employer to petition them, pursue a legal claim for unlawful termination or return to the homeland.

Realistically, it may be a difficult task to find employment these days especially if there is little time left to extend their visas. In the same way, pursuing a claim against their employer may be an uphill battle especially with the "debarment" penalty imposed on their present employer.

Every year, thousands of Filipino workers leave the homeland to seek opportunities abroad. Many need to realize, however, that finding work abroad is often just only the first step in a long journey. That journey will lead to different paths for each individual. Not all will find what they are looking for. Hopefully, however, even with sad stories that we hear about the situation of our kababayans, enough of us will still find success such that those that do will continue to encourage and inspire others who are willing to follow and blaze new paths on their own.

[Inquirer may be reached at ... or at 4877777 or 7251796.]

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SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

Sunday BIZ

Facility to make entrepreneurs out of farmers

IN THIS ISSUE

A leader's way: Seven hallmarks of a leader /B3

Ecija women venture into water lily weaving /B4

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—A modern hi-tech farm will soon be running out a new breed of "farmer entrepreneurs" who not only will learn how to till the soil, but can also add value to their crops and increase their income.

"We are now in the age of computers, so it's time our farming have computerize," says Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala. "The more precise and scientific our farming, the more our farmers can earn."

Alcala was referring to programming and sowing crops, owning farms, calculating the appropriate production volume that could command a good price at a ready market, and applying the right amount of chemical inputs for a particular type of soil.

In applying the right amount of inputs, farmers, particularly those who use inorganic chemicals, can meet international standards on tolerable limits of pesticides, Alcala explains.

But the agriculture chief said local officials acknowledge that farmers can get a better deal from their crops if they also are given the opportunity to "add value" to their produce through processing. Then they can market their goods through a system that favors farmers more than traders.

Given this opportunity farmers may also become entrepreneurs, the officials say.

VEGETABLES are hauled by carts at the La Trinidad Trading Post.

A WOMAN carefully balances a basket of fresh carrots on her head.

A TRADER packs bell peppers to be sold in Metro Manila.

Facility to make entrepreneurs out of farmers

From page B1

The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Benguet provincial government and the La Trinidad town government, the Benguet State University (BSU) and the Benguet Farmers Marketing Cooperative, has embarked on a multimillion-peso project to be built in the area.

The facility, called the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center Project, promises to give better prices for farmers' produce, says Ideala.

The agriculture chief was in town on April 13 to sign a memorandum of understanding with the DA's partners.

The facility will be just on a four-hectare lot at a swampy area, displacing some 38 strawberry and vegetables farmers who will be compensated and settled elsewhere.

Ideala finished a check worth P1.35 million to the farmers as initial payment for their damaged crops because the area was being readied for construction.

The new trading center, its proponents say, will help Benguet farmers by making their marketing system more efficient.

This capital town has a trading post, built in 1984, where farmers sell their produce to traders, most of whom come from Metro Manila. But the trading post has become quite congested and the farmers have to wait for as long as a day before they get to sell their crops.

The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), which was commissioned to study the project's feasibility, says that as many as 1,000 trucks carrying a total of 1,000 tons of vegetables queue up daily at the trading post.

With the modern trading center, buyers and sellers will no longer have to contend with congestion and traffic problems," says DAP vice president Ahmad Alonzo.

A computerized trading system will be set in place at the new facility to ensure that the farmer will have solid bar-coded receipts for their produce.

Project proponents will also be installing a processing and cold storage facility at the trading center. There will also be commercial area (such as cafeteria and dormitory) and an area for boutique and grocery stores, especially catering will enable refiners into compost fertilizers.

TONS of vegetables grown in Benguet, Texas town in Bigan and Banlac town in the Mountain Province end up at the La Trinidad Vegetables Trading Post each day. The province supply most of Metro Manila's vegetables requirements.

Following up on a suggestion made by organic farmer Jun Alonzo during one farmers' forum, Ideala instructed the delegates of the trading center to include an outdoor mall or facility for organic fertilizers.

"This is to ensure that organic vegetables won't get contaminated," says Alonzo.

Dr. Rogelio Cuding, BSU president, says the trading center will also allow students and researchers of BSU to practice their skills and offer their services to hone the vegetable industry.

It is through the processing facility—where vegetables will be washed and cleaned—and cold storage that farmers can add value to their crops when these are marketed to high-end buyers from Metro Manila, such as shopping malls and hotels.

The agriculture department, Ideala says, will also help farmers in linking up with potential customers abroad.

The trading center's programmed operations, however, presupposes programmed cropping.

To those who will manage the facility will have to sign contract-growing and production and marketing agreements with farmers.

The idea, says Alonzo, is to maximize the size of the facility and to avoid overproduction, which can lead to losses for farmers.

But in case of overproduction, the new facility, in the long term, seeks to further process vegetables, which can be packed for canned addition to soup or other dishes, says Ideala.

"In this kind of programmed operation, we can not leave anything to chance ... for everything must be organized in order to reap maximum benefits," said Ideala.

Programmed operation leads to faster transaction or exchange of money, a development. Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan says will enable farmers to save more on electricity, household appliances and vehicles and send their children to school.

People, Events & Products

Go places with your Smart Bro-powered iPad

THE IPAD version of the hottest gadgets to hit the computing world in recent years. In its short span of existence, it has established and legitimized the tablet category. A lot has been said about the iPad's powers and capabilities but one thing is for sure – the iPad needs to be with Internet connectivity. But what if WiFi is spotty or not available?

iPad user Rafaela Lopez, executive director of entrepreneurial advocacy group Cebbiegirls.com, not let the absence of WiFi networks limit the capabilities of his device. "That's why he chose to power his iPad 3G with a 4.6-mbps Smart Bro Internet Bro – the wireless Internet service of Smart Broadband Inc., a subsidiary of leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc. (Smart)). "I believe that Smart has the widest and strongest coverage for wireless broadband and 3G service," said Lopez. "Smart has been a reliable service provider in my mobile phone and other Internet device and it has a very reasonable monthly fee for unlimited use of Internet," he said.

But only 3999 a month, the Smart Bro prepaid MicroSIM gives users of the iPad 3G models unlimited access to the Internet even in places with no available WiFi signal. Using the Turbonet4G network of Smart, the Smart Bro MicroSIM allows iPad 3G users to have such access from virtually anywhere in the Philippines.

"My Smart Bro MicroSIM has helped me many times," said Lopez. "Even when I'm in the car or in any place with no WiFi, I can still work on the materials I have to review. I use my spare e-mails quickly, which most of the time have deadlines. Several times, I've used the Bloomberg app and it allowed me to make timely buying or selling of stocks," he added. The iPad has truly made life better and more convenient for Lopez. Combined with the power of the Smart Bro MicroSIM, the device becomes his perfect tool for surfing, research and idea generation, at any place and time he chooses. "The Smart Bro service for my iPad through the Smart Bro MicroSIM is accessible, fast and clear. Even in so-called low WiFi spots, the signal strength is monitored especially when there are many other users to switch to 3G. And it is very very useful as shall see my "Internet mini". Before and timely wherever we go to, wherever need it," shared Lopez.

The Smart Bro MicroSIM is also available in prepaid allowing subscribers to pick the unlimited surfing package of their choice, whether daily, weekly or monthly. For users of iPad 3G models without the MicroSIM slot, they can still enjoy the same Smart Bro powered mobility with the Smart Bro Pocket WiFi that turns any spot to an instant WiFi Zone. Both the Smart Bro MicroSIM and the Smart Bro Pocket WiFi are available in all Smart Bro Pilipinas Centers nationwide. More information about the application requirements for prepaid, plus Smart Bro's range of products and services for various devices and types of users can be read at www.smart.com.ph/bro.

I-TECH RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH SUN CELLULAR

Interactive Technology Solutions Inc or i-Tech is the preferred business process outsourcing company of the #1 fastest growing provider of innovative, premium, yet pure service with Digital Mobile Philippines Inc. better known as Sun Cellular's flash platform Digital and Sun Cellular with highly of talent contact center

Sun Cellular vice president for customer relations, strategy management, Rachelle Penaojas (sitting second from left) – Smile's account officer Maggie Tendero, site manager Mark Sanchez, Sun Cellular's CRM senior manager Emmanuel Sallador, and telesales manager, Shaidyn De Leon.

ProductFILES

The great outdoor adventure

LIFE IS a journey. Exploring the great outdoors is to renew the body, connect more with nature, and feel breathtakingly alive. But every journey starts with a single step and the right outdoor gear.

Outdoor Products provides for the complete outdoor experience for both novices and enthusiasts. It all started with "The Banana Department Store," the primary source of outdoor gear in Southern California in the 1970s. It was legendary for its wide array of everysporting good item imaginable. The experience of buying and selling outdoor gear was eventually fed to the natural evolution of the business innovative creation of Outdoor Products, which became an answer kit with the customers. Now, Outdoor Products is available in the Philippines.

Outdoor Products continues to rely on customer feedback to ensure quality and value of products, outfits a reasonable and affordable price. From heavy duty camping bags to lightweight day packs and everything in between. As for the serious athletes, each Outdoor Gear is designed to cater to the need of the adventure, whether it be trekking, hiking, camping, and even hiking.

Smart and innovative in design, Outdoor Products is both practical and easy-on-the-eyes. Every detail and compartment serves a purpose that provides convenience and quick access to the adventure seeker – the ultimate carrying solution to the great outdoors. Outdoor Products also offers complete accessories and cleaning tools available for the die-hard explorers – from water bottles to hydration packs, to maxi kits, hand towels, and even digital scales, and many more!

Outdoor Products also has a variety of computer carriers, backpacks, travel bags, and waterproofs that are needed when exploring the urban jungle. With years of experience in the outdoor gear industry, each product is meticulously fine-tuned to help you travel, explore, entertain, and play in ultimate sophistication, comfort, and convenience.

It should come as no surprise that as we pull ourselves away from the tamed world, we find ourselves becoming lonely. Being in an office cubicle, living in a condominium or even living in the quiet suburbs sometimes feels like living in captivity. So when you feel tired and worn out, it's time to pack your bags and head outdoors. Bring camped up: does not take you places. Open your world and explore what it has to offer.

Life is too short. Follow the journey and we love for you see go. Outdoor Products also comes with an extended lifetime guarantee. For more information, check out Outdoor Products Philippines at Facebook. Outdoor Products is available at Human's Department Stores, Sportsfreak Gear, Fashion Hub, Metro Manila, All Terra, Conquest Outdoor, Cross Sports, Thal Hiko Outdoor Gear, Camp Adventure, La Grand Boutique – Nina 3, Bike King, The Shoe Shop, Royal Sporting House, Fashion Rack and Dirty Pete Sportswear – Home Mall.

The newest interactive theme park

PARENTS WHO want the best for their children may now be in luck as they are finding new and exciting ways to reward them kids for doing hard work during school days. And going to the same old places may now be uninteresting for them. Great news for parents with perceptive children. There is a new land for happy thoughts located in Manila. That is Sen Bonifacio World. It is science and art in 3D technology combined in a theme park that promotes fun-learning experiences through educational and entertainment value.

There is unending possibilities of fun and laughter as the nerve before overwhelmingness only in Sen Bonifacio World. Experience an interactive learned art that stimulates a 3D optical illusion. The Trick Art Museum is a gallery of free hand paintings that seemingly comes to life with its tricky art form. Be puzzled and dazzled in a labyrinth of multiple glass panes. The Mirror Maze will challenge everyone's sense of space and direction, as you get lost in your own reflection. Kids will definitely love it in the 3D room. The multi-sensory 4D Cinema Plus will make you feel that you are part of the movie. And there's more. At Sen Bonifacio World, Kid's Paradise is a must. It is jungle-themed wonderland where kids will certainly have some yummy children. So, discover the land of happy thoughts this summer season.

Sen Land is now giving 1 free ticket for every 3 purchased tickets. So, have the best and let the real fun and excitement begin. Sen Bonifacio World is located at the 2nd level, south wing of The Manila Ocean Park, Quirino Grandstand, Manila. It is open Mondays to Fridays (9am to 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Text Fantasy World subscribers for birthday parties and other events. Visit their website at www.senbonifacioworld.com or call (02) 359-9060. Find and like their Facebook Fun Page (Sen Land).

Nokia's Summer Heat Wave Sale

HOT THE sweltering summer heat with a cool, mobile-ready attitude with the latest Nokia phones at unbelievably marked-down prices. You have an amazing to catch Nokia's "Summer Heat Wave Sale" at all Nokia Exclusive Stores and authorized dealers this March and April. Starting today, Nokia handsets whenever you buy Nokia's latest smartphones as well as discounted units of select Nokia devices. Great deals are also offered on Nokia's most-loved social networking phones which come with a one-mid Nokia handset for only P499. Looking for affordable handsets for family and friends? Get these other great Nokia devices at discounted rates: Nokia 1208 for only P999, Nokia 2323, Nokia 7230, Nokia 6288, and the Nokia C1-02 at P999 all at the Nokia Exclusive Stores and authorized dealers.

JLHS QC Class 1969-2009 Grand Alumni 'Reunion' Celebration

CALL ALL! Jesus Juan Cuna High School (JLHS) graduates of 1969-2009, the Grand Alumni "Reunion" Celebration will be held on July 30 at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Elliptical Road, Quezon City. The event will start at 2 p.m. For inquiries contact Rey Jose at 09 15-5673033, Lolita De at 0922-8252826 or visit www.jlhsalumni.org. For Quezon City, please contact any of the following: Jean Valenzuela at 09 17-5412615, Alex 0920-3xxx-xxxx or 09 18-3328043, 968-3871. For Caloocan at 0927-8115886, 411-2423.

Seven hallmarks of a leader

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN once said, "There is perhaps no one of our natural passions so hard to subdue as pride. Beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive. Even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility."

Another of America's founding fathers, John Adams, battled against arrogance as well. "Vanity, I am sensible, a shy cardinal vice and cardinal folly; and I am in continual danger, when in company, of being led by it."

Most leaders have an abundance of ambition, talent, and confidence, but few possess the humility necessary to sustain influence over time. Many share humility, seeing it as a sign of weakness or self-doubt. Yet, in reality, humility is the pinnacle of priorities and accomplishments. Here are seven qualities humility brings about in the life of a leader.

1. Responsibility

Humble leaders readily accept responsibility for failure. When things go wrong, they instinctively look within to understand what they could have done differently instead of looking outward for someone to blame. Willing to take ownership of mistakes, humble leaders are quick to fix them; they do not wait for someone else to solve a problem.

2. Objectivity

In the words of Ezra Taft Benson, "Pride is concerned with who is right. Humility is concerned with what is right." Humble leaders do not consider their own ideas and projects to be sacred. They do not insist on having their way, but are following the best course of action—regardless of who suggests it.

3. Open-mindedness

Humble leaders have awareness of how much they don't know in each, they're inquisitive, quick-leads to listen and learn. Aware in their abilities, they are not threatened by the input of others. Not only do they welcome feedback, they solicit it.

4. Flexibility

Whereas prideful leaders rigidly adhere to an initial strategy long after it proves to be unfruitful, leaders with humility quickly switch courses as soon as warning signs appear. Unafraid to admit having made a bad decision, they're able to adjust quickly.

Humble leaders have no qualms about abandoning a product that's past its prime—even if they personally had created it.

5. Inspiration

Humble leaders are appreciative people. When their experience success, they're quick to shine the spotlight on others. Mindful of their dependence on others, humble leaders regularly express gratitude for the contributions of their teammates. Their thankfulness inspires those they lead and boosts team morale.

6. Respect

Humble leaders heed John mentor Holmes' advice: "Remember that the entire population of the universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others." They see life as far bigger than themselves, and add value to other people by serving them. By considering themselves in the service of those within their sphere of influence, leaders gain respect and earn loyalty.

7. Compassion

Humble leaders embrace the Law of Significance: "One is too small of a number to experience greatness." They recognize that their vision cannot be accomplished in isolation, so they invite others to join them in pursuing it. They cherish relationships and intentionally cultivate friendships. They view life, not as a quest for individual glory, but as an adventure to be enjoyed in the company of fellow travelers.

(Reprinted with permission from The John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy. Attend "Re10"—a learning event to help you build relationships with your spouse and children on May 7, 2011 at The Zen Backyard from 1pm-4pm. Call Inspire Leadership Consultancy at 8872634, 7064827 and look for Rivaldo. Visit us at www.inspireleaders.com.ph for more details.)

₱4-B Cebu mall rises

Turn to page B4

He credited his father, Henry Sy, for the group's aggressive expansion prospects, adding that he learned from his father how to think long-term.

"I believe this country has so much future growth. The retail industry is still going to be strong," Sy said, adding that 80 percent of the earnings of Filipinos are being spent on consumables.

This year, SM Prime has plans to open three malls—SM City Masinag in Antipolo City; SM City San Mateo in Pampanga; and SM City Dasmariñas in Zambales.

It also plans to expand two existing malls, SM City Davao and SM City Bacolod-Bata to Cavite.

By the end of the year, SM Prime will have 43 malls nationwide with a gross floor area (GFA) of 5.2 million square meters.

Including the SM malls in China, the company's GFA will reach 5.8 million sq. m.

Volvo hails "My Love, My Desire, My Sexy Beast" as Best Film

Film Festival features 9 films showing the All-New Volvo S60 in an Ad

Taking some parallelisms between the All-New Volvo S60 and every woman's "perfect guy", the film which entitled "My Love, My Desire, My Sexy Beast" was hailed as the overall winner in Shot Film in the All-New Volvo S60 Made for Action Film Festival. Voted at the exclusive Premiere Screening of Dialogue in Place last 30 March 2011, the winning film was a scene-stealing with Volvo's fine machine in the frame. The All-New Volvo S60 Made for Action.

Volvo Philippines wanted the competition to have an up-close and personal experience with the new breed of Volvo cars and thus celebrate the fun-filled driving way of all supreme good performance crossover Dualtec Singapore for the winning entry. Nine teams composed of journalists mainly from the motoring field captured different scenes of the powerful 304hp T6 in action. Volvo's mid-sized premium sports sedan exhibited real power and sheer dominance as it was brought to different places and captured by the creative judges of the various teams to whom it was home for a couple of days.

All the finalist-level commendable efforts and showed great enthusiasm in showing the distinctive of the sedan that is the Volvo brand. Superior special awards were also given as follows:

• Best Domestic Performance: Volvo S60 Road Safety using airbags, fore seatbelts, Bonnie Hoveland and Mark Ng

• Best Editing: The Weapon by Andie Lopez, Niel Pagulayan, Ira Pangandian, Sahara Salman

• Best Film Score: The Weapon by Andie Lopez, Niel Pagulayan, Ira Pangandian, Sahara Salman

• Best Film Score: The Weapon by Andie Lopez, Niel Pagulayan, Ira Pangandian, Sahara Salman

• Best Director: Andie Lopez for The Weapon

• Best Cinematographer: The Weapon by Andie Lopez, Niel Pagulayan, Ira Pangandian, Sahara Salman

• Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role: Amelie Bolongaro and Rowena Nerbe for My Love, My Desire, My Sexy Beast

• Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role: Niel Pagulayan for The Weapon

• Best Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role: Angel Rivero for My Love, My Desire, My Sexy Beast

• Best Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role: Andie Lopez for The Weapon

The films were uploaded to the Volvo Philippines Facebook site on March 16, 2011 in chapter format. Each team started campaigning for their videos to earn "likes" since the team with the most number of Facebook likes already has a 50% chance of winning. The Most Viral (Other) overall prize was awarded on the day the Festival ended on March 31, 2011. The panel of judges included young independent photographer and Volvo enthusiast Jeffrey Delgado, Volvo Philippines Brand Ambassador Jeffrey Tam, singer and performer Raymond Lauchengco and Director Dean Israel Jalandoni and Chairman of the Cinema Evaluation Board under the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Volvo Philippines Facebook site fans was also rewarded when they voted for their video as the fans' automatically gave them a chance to win Volvo premium items in the daily raffle. Perfect gift for lovers was also given to the winners in the Best Actor and Best Actress categories courtesy of Rowena.

The All-New Volvo S60 proves you'll always find you can never imagine. Excitement now in your hands as you go full throttle, breaking normal rules, such ease and superb handling. We invited our friends from the media to test the fabulous and sporty in the new generation S60. Of course, knowing they're behind the wheel of one of the safest cars in the world - with Collision Warning and Full Auto Brake and Pedestrian Detection - another added thrill — just adds to the fun," quipped Concepcion de Guzman, Assistant Vice President for Marketing/Services of Volvo Philippines and Chairperson of the Film Festival Committee.

CREDIT TO: ALYSSA JO http://www.facebook.com/volvophilippines

Sunday BIZ

Ecija women venture into water lily weaving

Added income seen leading to peace, prosperity

Text and Photos
By Jerwand Salang
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—An additional income of P50 a day can go a long way for a family.

With this in mind, Gloie Rose Aquilla, a leader of a women's group here, encouraged an initial batch of 30 women to take part in a three-day training in water lily weaving, which was conducted at the old capitol compound last week.

After the training, these women were tasked to share their new skills with other members of their organization in Nueva Ecija, as provided under the livelihood program of Gov. Aurelio Umali.

The group, called Ladies of Nueva Ecija, produces bags, slippers and trays from water lilies, which are widely available in the province.

Pompoille said the women would eventually produce home decor and home and office supplies.

"A P50 daily extra income

MEMBERS of the Ladies Group of Nueva Ecija fashion products using water lily.

WATER lily can be used to produce bags, slippers and trays.

that you can earn right inside your house counts for a lot," she said.

For example, a pair of slippers made from water lily she said, can be sold for P35 each in the market.

She said the local government had committed to help the group market its products.

Board Member Emmanuel Anthony Umali said the livelihood activity was a step toward achieving peace in the province, which is known for its intense political rivalries.

"This is beyond making more income for your family, this can be translated to peace and development that we have long wished for," he said.

The provision of livelihood opportunities for housewives, he said, is one of the thrusts of the provincial government.

In Cebian town, the Department of Labor and Employment, along with the local public employment service office, handed out P500,000 worth of livelihood assistance to 75 workers under the government's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating mga Disadvantaged Workers (Tupad).

Belen Peñamil, Dole Nueva Ecija director, said the assistance was distributed to workers from 23 villages in Cebian.

The beneficiaries include out of school youth and displaced workers.

Mayor Gloria Crespo Cangco hoped that the financial assistance will raise the standard of living of her constituents.

Tupad was launched in 2009 as Dole's program for long-term employment generation, in response to the global financial crisis that reached its peak that year.

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www.pnb.com.ph

PNB

P4-B Cebu mall rises

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—In about two years, the biggest shopping mall in Cebu, costing over P4 billion, will rise at the city-owned reclaimed property, South Road Properties.

Building the mall is retail giant SM Prime Holdings.

SM Prime president Hans T. Sy said the P4.3-billion shopping mall would be the fourth biggest among its malls in the Philippines, next to SM North Edsa, SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City and SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The shopping mall is scheduled for completion by the second quarter of 2013, Sy said.

The new four-level mall will feature a five-theater Cinemplex, an IMAX theater, 18-lane bowling center, ice skating rink near the food court and a roof garden.

The shopping mall is part of the 30-hectare mixed-use development project of SM Prime called SM Seaside City, which broke ground last week.

Sy said the group had started the construction of the P800-million road network at the property and would soon build a P400-million church in the area.

While the company has plans to build other structures, including a residential condominium and a hotel, Sy said the priority is the mall.

He said earlier that the entire SRP project would cost about P207 billion.

He added that the group might start discussions with the Cuñeta group, which manages Ayalaan Ink Road in Cebu City, for another mixed partnership.

Meanwhile, Sy said that the completion of the SM mall in Consolacion town, 12 kilometers north of Cebu City, would be delayed because the group had decided to increase the mall's floor space from 40,000 sq. meters to 75,000 sq. meters.

"We have not finished it yet and we have decided to expand it," he said.

Member PDIC. Bangko Sentral Kasunduan Ang Sari-Saring Deposito P500,000

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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For Kate and William, it's a love story —and a tough old job

PRINCE William and Kate Middleton

By Margie David Collins
Lifestyle Editor

LONDON—Can we really be bothered about whether Kate—or Catherine, as Palace courtiers now prefer we call her—wears a tiara or flowers in her hair on her wedding day?

This, we are told, is the latest royal wedding dilemma. According to a recent poll, 79 percent of us don't care. While Americans,

FOR KATE, G2

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HOTEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

CRIMSON

For Kate and William, it's a love story—and a tough old job

From page C1

rapacious and hot-tuna fans entranced the spirit of the royal wedding, we are taking our time, almost to nauseam, to the letter. We are grateful for the long four-day weekend, and those of us who still have some income to dispose of have already booked foreign vacations.

Inflation is at an all-time high, household incomes are tightly squeezed, unemployment is rising, an Alberta-sized hole in the national budget urgently needs plugging, a summer of record disconnect looms on the horizon, and we are poorer than we're even in love since 1926.

We are a nation of quiet avoiders, and can be forgiven for not being in a collective mood over an unruly indulgent and highly privileged couple. In a time of parental austerity, maybe the £36-an-year of the wedding has dampened a steady national envy.

The author of the late Alexander McQueen has been touted as the bridal dressmaker, consequently garnering he a world-wide publicity, which has only added to the glum glamour of McQueen's suicide last year.

High street labels

For engagements, the motherhood Kate liked to wear are matches high, with the accompanying fashion maxim to assume her of playing it safe, and urging her to hire a stylist. She has a duty, they hoped, to become a style icon and show off her fashion nous and support British, whom "I should have called by now, Dear Kate," said Vivienne Westwood, "but I have to wait until she kind of outdoes up a bit somewhere with style." Ouch!

But Kate's first public outing to name a lifeboat, in freezing cold and blustery wind, she wore a sensible herringbone coat that had to defend at the races in 2008. Taking a leaf out of The Queen's and Princess Anne's books on persistence, she had the coat recycled by having it taken up to her knees.

Teamed with her trademark black suede boots and a leather fascinator in her jaunty ponytail, she looked a treat. Meanwhile, the bridal dress will remain a secret until the wedding.

Did I say Queen Lang? Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is 85 this year and shows no sign of wanting to abdicate in favour of Prince Charles, 62, who has been in training for the job forever. "It's best to let the throne rest a post-Charles, it is a groundsman," wrote Hugo Rifkind.

In the shifting rules of public opinion, a recent poll suggests that one in three Britons wants the Queen to abdicate within two years, making way for her son Charles and Camilla, but for William and Kate, divorced, and the poll, to be more "suited to the times."

On a whistle-stop tour in March, William visited north Queensland's Christchurch in New Zealand, attending a memorial service for quake victims. "My grandmother once said that good is the price we pay for love. Here, today, we love and we grieve," he intoned, as many in the crowd mechanically wept.

The visit was a tremendous hit for the morale of the people who hold Wills in high and loyal regard. "Real ding- ness Australian, where he visited areas damaged by the recent cataclysmic floods.

William, five months younger than his intended, is heir to the oldest, most successful and stable royal house in Europe. He inherits a kingdom whose people are today less reverential and deferential to the monarchy. Maybe we have just tired of the dysfunctions and dramas surrounding the house of Windsor; the virulent details of a beautiful, but self-absorbed, princess who would be 50 this year if she had lived; the divorces; the rapacious-hearted Civil List, through which The Queen receives £7.9m a year for official duties.

Wills was 15 when his beloved mother, of whom it was said he was extremely protective—died from a car crash, in a Paris tunnel.

Cashing in

In his new book "Untold Story," criticized as a crass piece of cashing in, Monica Ali mentions Diana, who takes her own death, underpost- extreme plastic surgery, and moves to a small American town where she works as a leisure model, until a paparazzo arrives on the scene to shatter her peace.

Kate and Diana have only three things in common: good looks, rising to fame without a trace, and incarceration as a proper job, as was alleged that Diana was a regular housewife before her wedding. Kate was 19 when she met William, at St. Andrew's University, where she was studying history of art, and he, geography. "I went bright red and sort of mumbled off, thinking very shy," she said of their first meeting.

At a student charity fashion show, Kate modelled the new season's "bad girl dress"—a no-thorough lace and silk tube designed by her mates at a club. She wore it with just black underwear, tipping the hand of her and prompting William, who was in the audience, to signal to a friend: "Wow! Rates her!" That dress recently sold at an auction for £79,000.

A year later, Kate ditched her boyfriend Rupert Finch, and she and William became an item, moving in together in the last two years of their student at St. Andrew's, in Fife, on the north-east coast of Scotland.

Now that William is off the shelf, horrassers and fascinators are gunning for 20-year-old Prince Harry in their lust lenses or early 20s, Harry's interests, mostly American, are entertaining. Harry's charm is a known effort to reduce him away

She's wearing a tiara or flowers? Will it be an atelier of Alexander McQueen gown? Seventy-nine percent of us don't care. But then a recent poll suggests that one in three Britons wants the Queen to abdicate—not for Charles and Camilla—but for William and Kate, deemed to be more 'suited to the times'

PRINCE William and Kate Middleton carried out their first public engagement as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, when they launched a new lifeboat.

Britain's much-vaunted traditional, multiracial society, there a still a corner of England where exclusivity and snobbery reign supreme.

"In British society" wrote the columnist Ben Macintyre, "there are not three classes, but an infinite variety of sub-classes, governed by a multiplicity of minute distinctions, invisible and incomprehensible to anyone outside the system. These are partly dependent on wealth, geography, education, but also lineage, accent, pastimes and where you buy your shoes."

Our princess is wanting to said that by studying French and Italian, having all about the demands of her job, "being sure, tested on state and foreign affairs, and cooking classes in moon. She is also taking advice on navigating the sticky shoals of royal protocol, to make sure she is always "very well behaved" from "My mother," she said, "is to follow his lead."

In 2008, the year for which there are known records, just under 250,000 marriages were conducted in England, 153,000 of whom were registered. As marriage is on the wane, many people are glad that the couple lived together first and waited before marrying.

The couple have admitted to pre-wedding nerves. "I can't believe it's going to be very soon now," Kate told a well-wisher at a recent walkabout. He said: "I have the support of my family and friends, I do a job I enjoy, and I have Catherine."

While she and Wills appear to have the untroubled confidence of each other's love and to be at ease with each other, marrying into the royal family is a full-time job, lived under the intense and not always friendly or fond scrutiny of a curious world.

Forget the solitary coffee at Starbucks, or shopping solo at Zygmas. The eyes—and camera lens—of the world are now on her becoming a professional, historical and sociological object of curiosity. How she outpoints herself in a long line of public engagements and pro-forma royal moments, year after year, will help to define a largely popular, if not loved, monarchy.

For God, Queen and country, bring forth, if not blinding surprise, then, at least, a parting of grin cheeks. We cherish an illusion. We are sure that, unless we succeed, to be happy and to four lovely children. It will be a hard-knocked day. Illness will sing and grocer will dance, and Steve won't be a dry eye in the house.

They're inviting their exes

ANATOMY of a royal wedding:

Kate and William have been together now for seven years, with a brief three month's interlude when they split up in 2007.

They currently live in a £750k a month cottage in the glossy village of Wales, where William is a Royal Air Force helicopter-rescue pilot, when he works. 24-hour shifts in a job that pays him £37,130 a year. His grandmother will gone him a title upon marriage, and he is currently third in line to the throne, behind his father, Prince Charles, and his brother, Prince Harry.

Some 1,900 gilt-edged invitations to the wedding ceremony were sent out in mid-February, to family and friends, members of the government and the armed forces, ceremonial heads of Europe and the Middle East, the diplomatic corps, and representatives of William's charities. Kate invited two of her ex-boyfriends, and William, his four past romances. Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, with whom Prince Andrew was not invited.

Whereas Charles and Diana received, among other baubles, a £500,000 gold-encrusted model of an Irish dinner from the Irish of Bahrain (later sold to a jeweller), Kate and William's wedding list requests goods and services to make donations to 26 charities that will benefit the young, abandoned, children of British soldiers killed in Afghanistan, the elderly, and the homeless, to name a few.

Just below 11 a.m. on April 29, over two billion people across several continents will watch the 28-year-old Catherine Elizabeth Middleton alight from one of The Queen's Rolls-Royce Phantom V state cars, with her father, outside Westminster Abbey, to marry Prince William. The ceremony attended by 1,900 guests and presided over by the forbidden-up of Canterbury, with the Bishop of London preaching the sermon and the Dean of Westminster Abbey giving the blessing at the end.

There will be a burst of spring flowers and music—several choirs, chamber orchestras, bands, state trumpeters, Sir Paul McCartney, and let them bells.

Then, processing, a horse-drawn gilded glass coach will convey the newlyweds from the Abbey to Buckingham Palace. There will be jubilant cheering, clapping, flag-waving and a spectacular fly-past by Prince and Mrs Wales, to the history of Black Hours. Aim very publicly for the first time, as man and wife.

Do what's right for you in the winter of your life

DEAR EMILY,

My husband and I are both professionals and respected in our chosen fields. We travel a lot, as we get invited around the country and abroad to parties and functions. We socialise, and separately, when needed.

On the homefront, our two children are all grown-up and have their own families. It's almost a perfect life—children all quietly successful, and my husband and I the "ideal couple." My husband is a dapper, tall, good-looking gentleman with salt-and-pepper hair.

Men and women like him because he is truly very charming, a raconteur who is a great asset in gatherings. I am the quiet woman in the corner handing a drink of water that passes off as vodka. We part satisfactorily

Lent affords us a chance to get away from madness, sadness

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Rufino-Gabaldá

HOLY FROM the madness and the sadness. That's where I want to be right now.

The cacophony of noises and pressure cooked in the wake of the controversial episode on a controversial host's game show has gotten way too loud and I seemingly reel of hands. All that the people were clamoring for was change. What's the point of filing lawsuits left, right and center against people who were only saying what they felt was right and true? Was dialogue not even considered an option?

The confusion gave way to complicated by the day and has become downright sapping. Many of the events and behaviors manifested by the lead players I can't fathom.

What to do when the madness becomes too much? Simple, take a step back, assess and see how this will all unfold. And maybe, at some point in time, as we've often done in the past, allow God's hand to move.

I am grateful for the promise of quiet that the Holy Week brings.

There's just been too much sadness and chaos lately. The father of my daughter's good friend was gunned down unceremoniously a little over a week ago just a few meters away from his home, as I write this, the activist, Pilar Pilapil, still glamorous but nevertheless a senior citizen, was carjacked and stabbed in Mindanao. Is no one safe anymore?

Then there is the issue of a possible Marcos burial in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani. I've never been a huge fan, but the question that comes to my mind is ...how is a heroism defined nowadays?

Respite

The Holy Week promises respite from all of these issues and all this negativity around us. Everything stops and everything is still for two to three days. For those traveling to distant places, in the beach, or in the provinces, I hope you take time to stop, even for half a day to stroll over the real meaning and significance of this period.

In the wake of all this "mess" (I may call it that, I pray for good programming, for big businesses and advertisers to support what is uplifting, empowering and good—yes, those kind of programs exist, too.

I hope that there will be stricter measures firmly in place to protect little ones from being exploited, and yes, abused. One friend said, the good that has come out of this is that children's rights are now to the forefront and topmost in people's minds. I'm pretty sure many parents now, quietly, in their hearts, reconsider the manner by which they rebuke their children, the ways in which they speak to them. That is of course, granted, they have the right mind set and values but that's another story.

Easter always reminds me about the hope and the promise that new begins, rising bold. That even in the darkest of nights, there is always something to look forward to.

I pray that we come out of this season, wiser, kinder, more enlightened and more tolerant. One of my favorite lines is from the author Kathleen Norris..."Prayer is not asking for what you think you want, but asking to be changed to want you can't imagine." Wherever you are on the force, always use what powers, talent or wealth you have for what is good. Lift up, don't tear down.

Rather some and go, and power does not last forever, at the end of the day, whether you are a parent, businessman, celebrity or a plain Jane or John Doe, the most important question to ask yourself is this—How do I want to be remembered? What legacy am I leaving behind? Climb a shorter an opportunity to change things,—where the old ways no longer work, create provides us a chance to take stock and make things new.

Close on those thoughts to the quiet of the coming Lenten season, I hope that in the stillness of your hearts you find an answer that you can live with and one that will help heal the world.

WHAT'S UP

Holy week, Easter activities

THE MANOR at Camp John Hay has lined up Holy Week activities for the whole family at The Manor's week-long Easter festivities from April 17-24.

The Manor Garden will be transformed into an Easter dreamland highlighted with mascots and clowns, featuring face lotion, magic and puppet shows, and other exciting treats, plus a munching trio on popcorn, fishing, candied apples and corn-on-the-cob. Kiddie guests may experience sensation-inducing fishing, a bonfire complete with hotdogs and marshmallows, and lessons on basic survival techniques while camping at the Little Camp John Hay.

Easter Sunday ushers in the highly anticipated family Easter Egg Hunt and Candy Picnic in the Bell Amphitheater at Camp John Hay.

Feast on international and local dishes showcasing Baguio's freshest produce at the best fine-dining restaurant in the city, Le Chef at The Manor, offering a Daily Breakfast Buffet, special strawberry creations in Strawberry Delights, traditional delicacies in Easter Garden Merienda, a sumptuous Good Friday Seafood Special, and an Easter Sunday Lunch Buffet.

A final stop at Le Chef Delicatessen caps your stay at The Manor. Bring home assortments of freshly baked Easter goodies, chocolates, pastries, bread and sweets.

The Manor at Camp John Hay is at Ludlow Road , Baguio City. Call (074) 4245000 ,5450002, 5450011, e-mail reservations@phihotels.com, and www.phihotels.com.

Easter at Discovery Suites

From April 18-24, beach residents can cocoon in air-conditioned comfort at Discovery Suites during Holy Week for only P 3,900 in a Junior Suite or P 4,900 in a One-Bedroom Suite. This special room rate is inclusive of a breakfast buffet for two at Restaurant 5.

Guests may also choose from a set dinner for two at 33 Prime steakhouse, couples' foot massage at Tara Wellness Spa, or two tickets to the hotel's "Happily Ever Easter" Children's Party on April 24.

On Easter Sunday, can have a filling lunch buffet at 27 Prime for P1, 488 per person.

The Columbus Function Room will host a "Happily Ever Easter" party with games, raffle prizes and traditional Easter eggs hunt for kids, plus and pananis. Lunch menu is P900 per person inclusive of merienda buffet, games, magic show and egg hunt. Discovery Easter revelers will also be escorted to The Podium Mall where a musical show and bakers awaits. Call 7108888 or 9148888, e-mail fnb@discovery.com.ph.

Meatless dishes

Crowne Grill offers meatless dishes for Lent. Appetizers include Calamares, Calamares Rebozado, Crispy Tentacles and Pork Lengua. Then you can have Tinola Manjuk, Tawa and Fruit, Sizzling Mixed Seafood, Gambas and Tempuras. Choose a main dish a selection which has all-time favorites like Tanigang na Ngoso or Bangus, and Adobong Pusit.

For grilled dishes, there's the Inihaw na Sura Pangs, Sura Belly, Pusit, Bangus and Pla pla. Healthy veggie options are Laing, Pinakbet and Kangkong with Oyster Sauce. Crowne Grill has branches in Malate, Makati, UN Avenue, Las Piñas and Diamond Avenue.

SM
MALL OF ASIA
MOA's
Big Easter Planet
April 24 | 1PM to 6PM | Music Hall
Face Painting
Egg Decorating
Celebrate Easter at SM MOA and get ready for an egg-citing one-of-a-kind adventure!
On April 24, have a fun, fun, fun Easter adventure at SM Mall of Asia! Play all day with enjoyable activities prepared especially for thrill-loving kids. Have an exciting afternoon and win goodies, prizes and more! Get ready for a treat like no other!
Photo Spot
Egg Hunting Adventure
For inquiries, call 556-0680 or log on to www.smmallofasia.com. Free mall-wide WiFi
Many thanks to our sponsors
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Mall of Asia

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Lilliw–now, other than the 'tsinelas,' a new parish museum to check out /E2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Shangri-La is just around the corner

IT NEVER ceases to amaze me where we can find our "Shangri-La." As it turns out, many times simple can be just around the corner.

My running buddies and I were on a practice run just before the Pasa Dimitlan and, as we jogged along those Dumaan-Lahat streets, we ran right into the breakfast Shangri-La fiesta (yours truly, of course). It seems the lungs of Asian bowling have taken to the Dutch!

Shangri-La Road, Paris, is remarkably different from its other locations. This former residence of Napoleon's grandnephew, Prince Roland Bonaparte, the building is a historic masterpiece. Its 81 rooms and suites, salons and reception halls were painstakingly restored over four years, and yet it retains the intimidation of a grand private residence.

Most of the rooms have views of the Eiffel Tower and the Seine, and this latest Shang is now the most intimate of Paris' grand hotels. Running into the Shang made me miss my buddy Bernice, as he is exactly the type to book a room in such splendor. Unfortunately he is not along for this Pasa Dimitlan, so an epic evil pact have to wait.

Sentosa, Singapore

Luckily there are now many exotic idyllic much closer to home, where we can steal away for a weekend. Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort is one such wonderful second discovery. I have been to Singapore several times, but I can't remember the last time I ventured over to Sentosa Island.

Just last January, though, Tere raved buddy **Pepper Tenbenkei** and I went off to check out the Sentosa Shang, newly retooled after a whopping SG$80-million 10-month facelift.

The crisp efficiencies of sales and marketing, Ogie Manuel's welcomed us as we boarded a bright to fill our bellies with delicacies. The cuisine features chefs in action at live cooking stations, as well as international and Asian delicacies and themed buffet dinners.

I realized that I should have taken along my youngest, Athena, because one section of the buffet is solely focused on kids, with pasta, desserts and chocolate fountains. The section is even designed with lower counters to make it easier for the kids to get dessert and ice cream.

Hyper and Athena have become buddies, as they bonded when we visited another Shangri-La, the Rasa Rainforest in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. They both had fun

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort is back after an SG$80 million facelift

FEATURED chef at Silver Shell Cafe cooking station

SEVEN Shell Cafe's friendly staff with Bryan Prieto, Shangri's director of sales and marketing Dyan Manuel, Sea Princess and Pepper Technician

WIFE of Makati Shangri-LM Margarita Kiauzar and daughter Alba with Arrow Bar Diego

UNIVERSAL Studios in Sentosa Island

Shangri-La is just around the corner

From page D1

raising the stakeposts in the sprawling resort. I've begun to realize there are quite a number of Shangri-Las around the world, but surely our Pinoys still consider the pinnacle of these things to be our very own Shangri-La Boracay.

Beachfront

Back among the Sentosa resorts, though, the Shangri-La is the only one with a beachfront location. After a sumptuous dinner with Pepper and my son, Bryan Prieto, we checked into spacious rooms with balconies overlooking the sea. Sentosa was once again new along, so again, utopia was only half the idyll.

The Sentosa Shang has 454 rooms, including bigger family rooms for guests with children, Panorama rooms for honeymooners or even deluxe retreat suites featuring private outdoor Jacuzzis on the balcony. The resort has seven restaurants and features a giant indoor rice forest and the signature playground, Coral Crest.

Having once worked in Shangri-La Makati, Ogie is happy to be in Singapore since there are a number of Pilipinos working in the resort. Even GM Ilan Sarandra is very familiar with Pinoys because he oversaw Shangri-La's Marina Island Resort and Spa.

Sentosa-bound attractions include a 2-km-long sheltered beach, spa retreats, the nearby huge shopping mall Vivo City and Universal Studios theme park. Next to the park's entrance, check out Hershey's Chocolate World and, a few steps away, Cinnabon, a huge candy-eaters.

COLORFUL parrots at Images Point in Sentosa Island

TOUCHING a sculpture at Butterfly Park

EXCITING logo ride down to Siloso Beach

SPECIAL kids' buffet station with chocolate fountain and ice cream

PAL expert flight team Fe Dizon and Edwin Chan

BREATHTAKING view of Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort

PICTURE-PERFECT view of Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort in Sentosa Island

HEIGHT-CHIC bedroom in Rasa Sentosa

WIFI-EQUIPPED business lounge with mini library

WAVE-kissed Siloso Beach next to Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort

DELICIOUS food at 8 Noodles Restaurant in Rasa Sentosa

EXTENSIVE seafood buffet with fresh oysters, crayfish, scallops and crabs

FUN attractions with the Sentosa 4D Magic team, Sea Princess and Pepper Technicians

OUTDOOR Bubbles Bar overlooking the sea

TRAVEL buddy Hale Zarmboa at hotel balcony with view of the Eiffel Tower

SHANGRI-LA Paris guest Nino Lucian and Charlie Carmona

SHANGRI-LA'S restored ballroom

RUNNING in Pulo near Shangri-La Hotel: Jarvel Banas, Bea Princess, Leana Carmona, Rossi Civil and Lara Perpen

CLASSIC and luxurious standard bedroom, Shangri-La Hotel Paris

Great summer finds, fun and food at Rockwell's Urban Bazaar

ROCKWELL'S 5.0, FIN popular Urban Bazaar is back, and the Powerhouse Tent is transformed in to a summer hangout with a beach motif feel. Party while you shop as you go from stall to stall to get his swimwear or a cool cotton blouse, quirky fashion accessories, sandals, bags, shades and trendy must-haves for your summer checklist. Also, enjoy the flavors of Bubble Tea Bay, chicken wings at Sunrise Baskets, icecream and milk teas, cocktails and pizzas. Hobbs on cues, fish balls and pan pan chicken.

A much-awaited shopping tradition at Rockwell, the Urban Bazaar this year offers chic picks from The Naked Gun, Soldier, Switchin' Sandi, Deals, bikes and jewelry but more, all under one big, amazing Rockwell Tent and the Power Plant bridgeway. Rockwell's Urban Bazaar happens on April 15-17 and April 29-May 1, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Rockwell food. For more information, call tel. no. 928-1100 or visit www.facebook.com/PowerPlantMall.

Metrobank art competition

Metrobank Foundation Art and Design Excellence (MADE) enters its youngest budding artists and to launch and enhance their careers. Artists may enter the following competitions: Painting (Watercolor on Canvas and Watercolor on Paper), Sculpture, Interior Design and Architecture. Painting and Sculpture have an open theme, and is for 18-30 years old Entrepreneur without any sales participation. Design is open to licensed interior designers 25-45 years old and for licensed architects, 25-18 years old. Deadline for submission of entries is May 1 for Painting and Sculpture, and May 29 for Interior Design and Architecture. Write to MADE Secretariat, 7/F Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Tindalo St., Makati City, or call 8881-6511 loc. 2356 or 8878-3021 or e-mail them at made@metrobank.com.ph.

Earthday concert in QC

Earthday June will be held April 25, 7 p.m. in Tomas Morato dominar, QC. It will be spearheaded by Lou Sorenevo's Dimdim Productions. Performers include Ella De Asnalbo, Brownman Revival, Cathello, Gramss, Iwings, Juan Fabio Brown, Lou Bonnevie, Moonstar 88, Rad Cabangcan, Philippikan, Flashwarrior, Iloilo Project, Rivertrays, SRS, Sound Bombs and The Company. Call 888-7165.

Andrew Lloyd Webber music in CCP

Citibank brings you "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" starring June 24, at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. CCP. Charge your tickets to your Citibank Credit Card or present your Citibank ATM Card and pay in cash no small of a 10 percent upon discount until May 15. Call TicketWorld at 891-9999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

Brahma Kumaris holds retreat

The Brahma Kumaris Centers will conduct a retreat on this Thursday, "Peace of Mind" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration lunch included is P300. Venues are at 7 Old Baghkan, San Antonio Village, Makati City and 34 Green St. cor. Kamuning Road, Quezon City. Call 851-8808 (Makati) or 414-9421.

Mallwide sale

Enjoy great bargains at SM. Lucia Mall presents Ready Set Sale until April 17. Get discounts of up to 50 percent on a wide selection of merchandise for common adventurers from Be Depot brand Store, Planet Toys, Home Gallery, Supermarket and over 300 specialty stores and boutiques available.

Get activated to win prizes on sale dates. Every P300 single or accumulated purchase receipt entitles the consumer to a raffle coupon for a chance to win one of three American Home Twin Tub Washing Machines.

SM. Lucia Mall is along Marcos Highway cor. Ma. Aurora, Cainta, Rizal. For details, call the Ayala Premier Department at 687-1000 loc. 106 or log on to www.thelucianall.com. You may also visit SM. Lucia East Grand Mall's facebook account.

Digital lifestyle fair

Catch the latest and all-original TVs, LEDs, digital cameras, MP3 players, audio-video equipment at the activity area of Totum Promotions until April 30. Products are available for 0-percent interest on all major credit cards. Call 633-43 00 locals 150/152.

"BodyTite, my preferred alternative to a tummy tuck."
- Ruffa Gutierrez
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SUPERMALLS

HAPPINESS MEANS HOPPING AROUND FOR LOTS OF EASTER FUN

Rise and shine for the most exciting Easter festivities at SM Supermalls

A heavenly experience awaits you this Easter at SM Supermalls. This special day becomes all the more meaningful as we fill it with a series of events that celebrates life - it kicks off with a mall-wide Easter egg hunt that is open to kids aged 4 to 12 years old. Kids may collect up to 10 eggs in this one-of-a-kind hunt.

Easter Egg Hunt Mall Challenge

Kids are invited to participate in different mall games:

Count the eggs in the jar
In this fun activity, kids may count eggs before their batches. They will be given eggs, which will lead them to five different stores with jars filled with eggs. Now they may take a shot at guessing how many eggs there are in the jar. Whoever who makes a guess that is closest to the actual number of eggs wins.

Spot the eggs
The age inquiring skills and power of observation are tested in this mall scavenging game. Kids will be handed maps that will direct them to the locations with eggs on their windows display. They will then have to count the eggs spotted from each window display. A then count comes close to the actual number of eggs on display from afar.

Easter egg letter and golden egg hunt
Easter just got even more delightful with this fun hunt. Easter eggs with different letters printed on them will be hidden underneath chairs, benches/walls and such for these eggs. Jasmine who finds the most number of eggs wins.

Scribble eggs
This wonderful word game is open to kids and their parents or guardians. Eggs colored with letters on them may be used to form words. The participants who are able to form the most number of words win the game.

Easter Bunny Costume Contest

What's an Easter celebration without costumes? This year, we're inviting kids aged 4 to 12 years old to suit up in their most creative one-stitching and unique Easter bunny costumes. To spice up the contest, we're giving away P1,000.00 worth of SM Gift Certificates each to the cutest, most colorful and weirdest bunny costume. Rev up to make participating kids.

April 04
SM Center La Mesa, SM Center Muntinlupa, SM Center Pasig, SM Center Valenzuela, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Marilao, SM City Sta Rosa, SM City Bacoor, SM City Bicutan, SM City Calamba, SM City Cebu, SM City Consolacion, SM City Dasmarinas, SM City Davao, SM City Fairview, SM City Iloilo, SM City Lipa, SM City Lucena, SM City Manila, SM City Marikina, SM City Manila, SM Center Molino, SM City Naga, SM City Novaliches, SM City Pampanga, SM City Rosales, SM City Sta Cruz, SM City San Fernando, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Sucat, SM City Tarlac, SM City Telabastagan

Easter Egg Tree

Have you seen eggs that grow on trees? Well, SM Supermalls is here! With SM's whimsical spirit, and the fairy part? Kids get to "harvest" an eggs each for a surprising treat, by simply presenting P100.00 worth of receipts from mall tenants.

April 04
SM City Bacoor
SM City Batangas
SM City Dasmarinas

Egg Painting

Kids may show off their artistic side by painting their eggs with colorful designs. They may start working on their masterpieces in these malls.

April 03
SM City Dasmarinas

April 04
SM Center Valenzuela
SM City Batangas
SM City Legazpi San Jose
SM City Iloilo
SM City Pampanga
SM City Tarlac

Giant Easter Egg Photo-op Area

Get ready to flex the camera and say cheese at the Easter photo op area. We are setting up giant Easter eggs (4 feet in height) for anyone who would like to remember about the day with a cute, cool Easter photo of the family. Snappers from an Easter to remember at these SM Supermalls.

April 03-04
SM City Bacoor

April 03-04
SM City Batangas, SM City Davao, SM City Sta. Rosa

April 03
SM City Telabastagan, SM City Iloilo, SM City Tarlac

Cybercore E-Bunnies Hunt

Cybercore's got an Easter treat for its customers. Simply go to your favorite Cybercore and participate in our Easter Bunny hunt. Visit www.cybercore.com for more details.

April 03
SM City Bacoor, SM City Baguio, SM City Cagayan De Oro, SM City Calamba, SM City Cebu, SM City East, SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City Marikina, SM City Iloilo, SM City North Edsa, SM City Pampanga, SM City Tarlac, SM Megamall, SM Southmall

SM Foodcourt Easter Promo

For a P200 minimum food purchase inclusive of two (2) ice cream in Mango Float drinks, enjoy free Easter games or rides at participating Easter premises.

April 01-30
All SM Foodcourt branches

Easter is a great time to celebrate life and be thankful for it. What better way to spend the special day than with friends and family? Experience it in the most wonderful way possible by taking part in the Easter activities at SM Supermalls.

For inquiries: call (02) 470-2222*, text 9996-4555473* or visit www.smsupermalls.com

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Hue–Vietnam's former royal capital, and a shrine to malleable history

By Ivo Pitanio
Contributor

What catapulted this ancient city into world consciousness was not its great palaces, but the image of a monk immolating himself

FOR ALL the external and monumental qualities they project, cities are malleable like clay. Their edifices and districts are easily molded in accordance with the desires of their builders.

Spanish Manila reflected the conquistadors' fear of insurrection and contagion. The massive city walls were supposed to protect its hispanic society as well as an illusory purity of blood. In contrast, America's draconian military might established broad boulevards and Neo-classical government palaces outside the original Spanish enclave.

Intramuros as it is now was made obsolete and conglomerates by developments in the technology of warfare and of hygiene. Much later, vast swathes of lands would rise from the sea to accommodate the visions of the New Society.

So it is with Hue, the former royal capital of Vietnam. I could sense that though much of the city was destroyed during the war with the Americans, there was a certain dignity that one did not immediately detect in Saigon and Hanoi. Were the residents of Hue just more aware that Hue was a place carefully fashioned as the stage for the effusive pageantry needed to rule a nation?

When the Nguyen dynasty consolidated the country at the dawn of the 19th century, the city was

Hue–Vietnam's former royal capital, and a shrine to malleable history

From page E1

re-engineered to reflect the concerns and whims of its rulers. Foremost was the need to create an illusion of power. In the early 1800s, it appears that, for the Vietnamese, being powerful meant being in harmony with and thoroughly able to harness nature. One idea had to have the support of Divine, or was at least capable of enshrining the Celestial Empire.

According to an essay by Nguyen Van Dinh, Hue was laid out in accordance with the principles of geomancy as practiced all over East Asia. The capital's site was chosen because it was protected by mountains known as the Emperor's Shield, The Hen and Su Dien. Men were seen as a Blue Dragon and a White Tiger guarding the metropolis' flanks.

In another display of dynastic strength, the Perfume River was opened to flow in front of the Imperial compound, forming an artificial reef that brought vitality and tranquillity. This, together with the mountain backdrop, mirrored the arrangement of China's Forbidden City as dictated by the requirements of feng shui. In fact, the cobble that marks the entrance to the palace complex is built to essentially a replica of the Meridian Gate in Beijing.

THEATER

My gym, now adorned with large posters of Ho Chi Minh, had once been a church

More changes

Under the French colonial regime, the capital underwent more changes as dictated by the predilections of its new masters. The spires of Roman Catholic cathedrals would punctuate the skies. Administrative structures were erected in novel styles representing global movements such as Art Deco.

When the Communists liberated their country, they, too, would place their mark on the city. A huge post-Soviet edifice embarked on enormous flag of the reunited Vietnam was placed on the Citadel. Its bright colors signaled to all that the People's Revolution had triumphed at long last.

There were more subtle changes. Walking me in a neighborhood gym, I was fascinated by the carvings and stained glass in a structure in which it was housed. Outside, there was a strange tower with even stranger round holes in the corner of the ceiling. It suddenly hit me that this was actually a belfry. The holes would have been for ropes attached to bells, now long gone, swung in the past to call the congregation. But, it's gym had once been a church.

It is space now dominated by home-made weight machines and large posters of Ho Chi Minh, women had been sold. Gone is, the current regime believed that arms pumping men superseded heavy lens in prayer.

Aside from the more obvious meanings, this harkened other narratives. I was taken to see the Temple of the Mandarins, a compound which celebrated those who passed the examinations for civil servants. Standing there was to sense the ascension of a life of financial rewards and eminence. The carved stone tablets extolling the virtues of the luminaries surrounded us. There were monuments to the particulars, celebrating main dominance of the establishment.

Fascinating counterpoint

Providing a fascinating counterpoint to all this smug and strident masculinity was a different temple which housed the burial places of the palace consorts. Entering the grounds, one is greeted by a large pond in the shape of a half moon. Its lotus-filled waters signalled that this was an exclusive, alluring, important meanings. In contrast to the straight lines and vertical shapes of the Mandarins' shrine, the gravemarkers here were rounded, with contours softened by time.

Among the city's top attractions are the Royal Tombs nestled in the surrounding hills. Evidently, the Nguyens rulers wanted to show that their power continued even in death. Their burial complexes were grand affairs, proclaiming that the cult of ancestor and ancestor worship was really a way for the deceased to maintain power over those they had left behind.

Of course, all this was actually maintained by living kings whose main reward was the promise that when it was their turn to rupee, they, too, would continue to be glorified by their heirs.

The oldest tomb I visited was that of Minh Mang, who ruled for only three years in the middle of the 19th century. He reign marked the last period when Nguyen power was pretty much unchallenged. After his death, the colonial reminiscences of the French would eventually render rulers living prisoners in their own realm.

What I found so interesting was the fact that once more the projection of power did not necessitate that the landscape would be transformed into a manifold of avenues. As illustrated by the configuration of the rest of the city, power arose from one's unity with nature. So it was that the Vietnamese kings' final resting places were lush gardens, tropical sanctuaries filled with forest and lakes. Minh Mang himself requested his country in the heart of a hill that was perfectly round, verdant with trees.

CHURCH converted into a gym

STONE courtier

Most beautiful tomb

Tu Duc's tomb is perhaps the most beautiful of all. Every corner is resplendent with the vast array of life. There was even a constructed pavilion which housed a theater. It turns out Tu Duc spent a lot of time here. This was his pleasure palace, far removed from the pressures of the capital. Ironically, one can read into the sylvan surroundings the need to escape from the reality that the forces of France were now beginning to dominate Vietnam.

Finally, I visited the tomb of Ba Dinh. This is the most extraordinarily decorated. Every surface bristled with porcelain mosaics of twisting branches and agitated blossoms that obscured the gold stucco of the lotus. By Ba Dinh's reign, the French campaign to annex the country had succeeded. The Nguyens were now mere puppets, and all the splendor of their courts and mausoleums merely masked their impotence.

Beyond the great boulevards and buildings that testify to the presence of a great metropolis, cities are also marked by absences. To this day it is the remembrance of the destruction of Khamenei which defines the personality of Wanda, as a community that had lost a part of its soul.

Decades ago, after catapulted Hue into the consciousness of the world was not the grandeur of its great palaces and shrines. It was the image of one its citizens, a quiet monk. He had traveled to Saigon to set himself on fire—a magnificent act of protest against the oppressive government that the Americans had helped bind upon his country.

Sadly, his martyrdom would not stop the forces that led to the senseless war which would ravage his beloved Vietnam, resulting in the destruction of many parts of that land.

Yet the monk's selfless sacrificing was not in vain. The image of him sitting so serenely as his body is engulfed by flames would be burned into the memory of the planet. It was a picture of his self-immolation which captured my attention as a boy, assuring that I would always remember the city of Hue.

Liliw–now, other than the 'tsinelas,' there's a new parish museum to check out

Text and photos by Sharon Rubin-Macasaet

MENTION THE town of Liliw and, naturally, tsinelas would come to mind. While this town in Laguna is, indeed, known for its slipper industry, there is more to Liliw than tsinelas.

This Lenten season, tourists from different parts of the country will flock to Liliw not only to shop for bargains but also to do Pasita Iglesia in its centuries-old church of St. John the Baptist Parish.

St. John the Baptist was founded in 1605. It has wonderful columnitis and has undergone a number of renovations. But it retains its old grandeur, standing majestically with Mount Banahaw as backdrop.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Museum showcases the rich heritage of the town church and its congregation

LILIW'S centuries-old St. John the Baptist Church

Educating the community

Today, there is another reason pilgrims should visit the church; it recently opened the adjacent St. John the Baptist Parish Museum.

Driven by his goal of restoring and preserving the church, parish priest Fr. Philip B. Mitoma (Omaji) is putting up a museum to showcase the church's history, religious images and artifacts, and representations of the life and significance of the teachings of its patron saint, John the Baptist.

He says the museum is also one way of educating the community about the church's historical value as well as the importance of the items on exhibit.

"Ten years ago, I already had this concept in mind. When I was first assigned to this parish, this hall (now known as Bulwagang San Juan where the museum is located) was just a storehouse. And I thought, especially now, we could make something out of this space."

Most of the artifacts in the museum have significant meanings to the parish itself, and to the Catholic faith. Many of them had been unnoticed inside the church convent and sacristy for years. Before erecting them and realizing their importance encouraged Fr. Philip all the more to put up the museum.

Even Liliwodoc could had a lot nostalgia as the museum incorporates pieces of the church's "past." Old pews and choir stalls, as examples, which used to be part of the original floor materials of the sanctuary around the church in the 1900's, now adorn the exhibit hall. The appreciated wooden balusters salvaged from old stairs even from the church patio and used in the to build parish century are also on display.

Another interesting item is the set of American Prayer Cards used during the time when a priest celebrated the mass with his back against the congregation. There is also the metal chest used in the olden times to store parish funds, and other valuable items such as the gold chalice and the censers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the dalles.

METAL chest used in the olden days to store church funds and other valuable items

PAIR of worked metal candelabras and base of a contemporary crucifix acquired between 1800s and early 20th century

ear Marian images, a wooden chalice storage receptacle, and metal candelabras acquired in the late 1800s.

Exhibit highlights

But the highlight of the exhibit is the dungeon-like area dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The church's old marble baptismal font can be viewed next to the chamber leading to the statues and images depicting the important events in the life of the patron saint. This area holds an old wooden image of St. John baptizing Jesus Christ, placed on the antique vitrine.

The image of the beheading of St. John, recently done by Pinto sisters Peter Pacano, stands in a case like pieces of the Last Supper, giving a almost realistic representation of the saint's martyrdom.

Antonia is delighted at the appreciation visitors are giving the new museum. Some people have been so moved that they have donated their personal collections, such as ancient religious artifacts and photos of the church taken in the 1950s, to the museum.

Liliw's parish museum is still a work in progress, but just like St. John the Baptist who constantly called on the people to repent and prepare for the Messiah, the museum aims to do the same: To educate, guide and prepare the way of the faithful in their journey of faith, inspired by the example of its beloved patron saint.

THE CHURCH'S old baptismal font as the entrance of the stone vault hallway and adjacent chamber

The museum is open for the Holy Week from 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m., 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Sundays. Entrance fee is P20.

Cardinal Vidal feted on Cebu Day celebrations

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Piccowit

IT'S THE season for march. Cebu City celebrated the 76th anniversary of its charter and there was Mayor Michael Rama rendering honor to his grandfather. The latter, Vicente Rama Jr. 1937 enacted the law that turned Cebu from a municipality to a full-fledged city.

As he called years, did was the occasion to award outstanding institutions and individuals. Foremost among them was archbishop Emeritus Ricardo Cardinal Vidal who was honored with the Order of Bgdali Matandawa. It is named after the King of Cebu, whom Magellan played the role of three slaves in 1521.

The rites were incorporated into the grand testimonial dinner held at Sinkat ch España of the Casino Español de Cebu. Outstanding individuals were Heather Axelrod, Leslie Ngan Ho, Cito Ewan Lao and Augustus Osmeña. Studies were awarded plaques to Ernesto Abadeer and his team, Alfonso Ang.

Philippine Foundation Awards

A couple of weeks later it was the Cebu-based Philippine Foundations that held the 20th edition of Archie awards for the outstanding citizens and businesses of Mid City Cebu, where an 1863 record was registered.

Presenting the awards was the foundation's president, Sen. Fr. Ernesto Javier, SJ, while past president, Mike Espina called out the names of the awardees. The Grand Portia award was given to Cardinal Vidal, the foundation's epitomized archbishop-hood as part The Order of St. Augustine Province of the Santo Niño de Cebu was cited as Valedictorian.

Valuable individuals were Leonilo Figura Bonachi, teacher; Monito Limchua, athlete; Mary Jo, lay apostle; and Rodolfito "Nong Ti-sang" Cuizon, keeper of the faith. One must add that Dido has kept the original choreography of the Sinulog routine dance in honor of the Sto. Niño.

A special citation was given to exemplary scout and student leader, Leslie Ryan Co. Congratulations to all and the people in the Philippines Foundation, thank-Jean Farber Javier, of Sirens are vice-presidents Marissa Persons and Elvie Valiente; secretaries Leonilo Jereza and Marites Chiong; treasurers Teo Chan and Helen Ty Tee; auditor John Dominic; PRO Neil Wee; and directors Peter Garcia, Tobias Chipat and Michael Go.

Among the distinguished members are Carlo Floralde, Bobbi Co Ching Hsu, Bunny Dagos, Anita Sambrot, Cielo Bernabe, Pilou Espina, Marcelo Lopez and Francis Montero who has "numbered" with a change of hair style. New members inducted this year have been Jennie Mendezona and Lito Ledesma.

Honorary chair of the Philippines Foundation is Belgian consular Jan Boerdam, assigned in Beijing, made from Mike Espina, past presidents have been Herman Sivergan, Antonio Nobre, Nestor Chan, Joseph Guanzon and Honorary Consul of Belgium Enrique Bernabe.

The program concluded with Nong Tisang Ibala on stage reciting poetic verses in Cebuano to honor the Santo Niño , and showing the audience how the real Sinulog is danced.

Mike on hand, Mike Espina urged the 300 people present to dance, too, wherever they stood. Cardinal Vidal himself obliged and so did Msgr. Jose Palma, his successor as Archbishop of Cebu. A good number surged up the stage.

Happy birthday Archbishop Palma

A formal dinner followed at the Nilo ballroom of the nearby Sutton Rio Hotel to honor Cardinal Vidal. Highlight was a concert by internationally acclaimed pianist Ingrid Sobe Gerona-Acuña with the Manila string quartet from the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines.

Ingrid took her place, flashed a smile as she sat on the piano stool, and nibbled the first notes of the birthday song. It was Archbishop Jose Palma's day-of-days, and he was recognized with deafening applause and cheery greetings from everyone.

Then, Ingrid played, marvelously as usual, Piano Concerto No. 1 by Chopin. More applause. Her audience filled the hall, and she obliged with an encore—the 3rd movement from the Mendelssohn Concerto in G Minor.

She made a hero and world-class string ensemble: Mr. violins Mark Hurtado, Reynaldo Abellana, Francis Rubeh Bale and Manuel Munoz; violas Jimmy Alpasa and Adrian Soliman; and double bass Christopher Manos.

Officers and members of the Philippines foundation have started to plan the 2012 Archie awards to celebrate in other jubilee.

Cebu International School play

The Cebu International School (CIS) started a hit with its annual play "Little Soon," by Steven Sterin, Catherine Finch and Eric Hardy, a rock and roll musical designed for high school students. It tells the story of Eric Bradley (and their narcotic parents) who vie in a TV signing competition.

The CIS superintendent, Deirdre Fischer, who is Australian, personally chose the play which had been such a success in Indonesia.

The five finalists were played by Olivia Lee, Daisy Kuler, Isabelle Rivera, Jayce Swan and Jerry Jeong. In the roles of competitors: Jaclyn Swan, Justine Quiling, Breanna Andrews, Jesse Poh, Abigail Rosales and Bianca Villarosa.

Instructions in program were crossed over Cara Larosa and Ale Laglera. As parents were Gabrielle Baljak, Nadine Neng, Philippe Mandalbaux, Mary Ann Gobello, Revilo de Rodgues, Hildegarde Hirale and Phan Rosas.

Camarines Norte holds Bantayog Festival

THE PROVINCE of Camarines Norte in the Bicol region holds the city-wide Bantayog Festival from April 1-29 in observance of the 61st founding anniversary.

Gov. Edgar Tallado said that the province normal after the first Provincial road built on Dec. 30, 1898 in the capital town of Daet by travelers fighters and townsfolk. Situated near the bank of Daet River, the monument is the first to be built in honor of José Rizal.

He said that the festival will highlight the people's friends character, as well as the province's tourist attractions such as historical sites, natural springs, national parks, scenic spots, caves and charming islands with pristine beaches.

The festival also coincides with the observance of the 113th anniversary of the 1898 Daet Revolt. Tallado said that this year's celebration also coincides with the 400th founding anniversary of the first three parish churches of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Daet—Our Lady of Candelaria in Paracale, St. Peter in Mercedes and St. John in Daet.

To highlight Camarines Norte's annual fun-loading and multi-sports tournaments, there will be a three-day sea-faring show, the Bay Ogay Sailers showdown, boxing and cycling competitions around the province. Covering up the festivities are the search for Ms. Camarines Norte, a reunion made for Career models, dance showdowns, a basketball game and the Governor's Night. Daily entertainers will include Bay Ho and Hilot's instant visual artist Hernan Magno in a painting workshop on April 29.

Celebration culminates on April 29 with the Grand Festival Parade showcasing the talent dancers of the various towns. Dal 0920-400-8284.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Special hotel packages for Lent

Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila offers a special Lenten room package, with rates starting at P6,800 net per night.

The offer includes daily breakfast, a 25 percent discount in all dining outlets, use of the hotel's swimming pool, whirlpool, children's pool and Club Dawn Manila Center, complimentary kamayan use of the infamous Pinoy-mesa center and access to the exclusive Easter Bunny Express specially designed for kids of all ages. Admission to the Easter Bunny Express is every Monday to Saturday launching the Lenten Retreat room package. Children delights their favorite restaurants during the Lenten season with a special Easter access to the playroom, which features fun activities such as Nintendo Wii, a kid's movie marathon, coloring, painting and other exciting activities. The Easter Bunny Express is open 2 to 6 p.m., April 20 to 23. For walk-ins and other guests, an entrance fee of P200 is expected. A special room rate is also offered to Dot-members this Lent. For reservations, call 345-1234 local 1291 or e-mail callcenter@hyatt.com.

HOT DAY FASHION

Summer means longer days and shorter nights—more time for the outdoors and for out-of-town fun!

Keep things casual for the hot days ahead with stylish, comfy, go-anywhere shoes and bags. Milanos, Swatch, Sebago and Salvatore Marini make it a breeze to find the transient and perfect boat shoes, loafers, driving shoes and sling bags!

These must-have shoes are fun and functional for all your escapades this summer. They're light and trendy yet handy enough for your adventures.

Boat shoes that exude casual coolness for a relaxed shot nevertheless prove sturdy for some summer sports.

Loafers look suave both in a resort and in corporate settings, and simply perfect whether you're just chilling or doing some serious driving.

IN THIS ISSUE
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Cream blush is the way to go for summer

MECCA CREME Blush provides natural, long-lasting color to the cheeks, adding radiance for a more healthy youthful look.

The highly pigmented creamy formulation and silky-smooth texture melts into the skin for a natural finish, and is suitable for most

(BRAND) P4

LIFESTYLE EXCLUSIVE

Kicking up the hornets' nest of birth control

STORY ON PAGE P2

Sunday L

Cream blush is the way . . .

From page F1

skin types.

Seven Colour Blush has won three consecutive prestigious Allure magazine Best of Beauty awards in 2003, 2004 and 2005, and a Handbag.com award in 2008 for Best Colour Blush.

"Blush is absolutely essential if you want to look healthy and radiant," says Seven founder Deborah Morrison Williams. "It lasts with only friendly skin care ritual to look fat. A colour blush is the easiest way to wear blush. With colour, the color appears sheer and does a powder as the way glow seems to come from within. Moreover, rather than look like it is adding on top of the skin. Apply Seven Colour Blush to the apples of cheeks to achieve an instantly younger and fresher look."

SEVEN Colour Blush

Available only at Ayala Department Store Cyberzone (Cat 19, 2/F), Glorietta 4 Atrium on April 28 and 29, May 5 and May 6 for beauty consultation with make-up artist Jan Belino. Visit www.sevencolour.ph.

Kicking up the hornets' nest

By Paco Nadres

LAGUNA Pacific Corp. founder Alfredo "Jun" Xerez-Burgos isn't your typical retiree.

He may have left his position as Lasud's CEO and president in April 2009, becoming the company's vice chair and executive director, but he continues to hold many other positions in different companies. He is the president of Chelo Pesca Pangs, Inc., chair and chief executive officer of Xerez Lake Development, Inc., director of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., and the chair of the Rizal Chapter of the Philippine Red Cross. He is also a lay minister, and has been for the more than eight years now.

"I exercise my duties and responsibilities as a lay minister very seriously. I give communion to the sick," he said.

A family-oriented man, Burgos also spends a lot of time with his children and grandchildren.

And as if he didn't have his hands full, last Nov. 20, Burgos added one more title to an already long list... Barangay Ayala Alabang Chairman. The transition was quiet. "I decided it was time to help Ayala Alabang Village because there were many questions on transparency from the existing barangay at that time. We wanted to run the barangay council professionally like corporations would be run."

Controversy

Burgos and his board had nothing in place for the village. But just months in, to his credit, Burgos found himself in the middle of controversy.

The council's Barangay Ordinance No. 1, or the "Prevention of the Unborn Child Ordinance of 2011," which bans the sales of contraceptives without a prescription and prohibits the sale to the establishment to teach sex education without parental consent.

Groups supporting and opposing the proposed ordinance held demonstrations at Ayala Alabang. "Every Xerez coat of my cervix," one of the prominent placards read.

Worse, down the ordinance spread fast and wide and soon, the message wasn't limited to residents of Ayala Alabang Village. With many FM radio stations opening their microphones to callers on the issue, the ordinance became a trending topic on Twitter, and the story was picked up by international websites.

In this exclusive interview, Burgos talks about the controversial ordinance.

Can you tell us how the controversial ordinance came about?

Alfred Xerez-Burgos: When we organized all the barangays to hold the first parking meeting, we followed. This was on Dec. 11, a Saturday. We were very excited, and we were able to gather a little over a hundred people. We asked them, what are the issues you'd like to take up with the barangay? Some issues, I hope, are economic issues. But this particular issue was raised by an individual who appears really emotion-ready with details.

Is it true raised by a resident?

Yes, it was. We're not supposed to raise issues, we're supposed to listen. We asked them, why people there don't have any objection to the raising of this law because they would like to pass an ordinance regarding this? And there was no objection. It's recorded.

So we said to the resident who raised the issue, why don't you give us the details of what you want to present? We'll assign one of our bagmends. After Raoul, the chairman for health, to see if your proposed ordinance makes sense. That's how it started. After referred it to the barangay's committee on women's rights, and they approved this. Married Tegnell. We have all the records here to show the process we went through.

And there were still no objections?

No, sirs. On Dec. 22, there was a public hearing held and there were at least 81-82 people who attended. On that time there were no objections. Probably because the ones who would object is it essentially were not present. They should have been there. That's why they are angry. They said, why didn't you consult us? But we always tell everybody. And again, we are very transparent with what we do.

On Jan. 2, after the ordinance was made, we sent a letter to the city council through Vice Mayor Antonio Amorsolo. In the letter, we informed it to their constituent on health and sanitation. That committee deliberated on the ordinance and put down questions. They actually complimented the barangay council for having taken positive steps to come out with an ordinance. We would advise all in Barangay Ayala Alabang. Because at the end of the day, we are charged with the responsibilities of serving all our constituents regardless of who they believe in, regardless of race, creed, color.

Start of protests

At this point, there were already protests?

I remember it already. On March 19, that was Saturday and that was, in fact, St. Joseph's Day, we had a second hearing in La Salle Cubao. And I think a little over 1,000 people appeared. Nasking real. And that a lot of people would like an opportunity to intervene, are prepared for it and held it at La Salle. In the auditorium that could fit about 600 people.

We made sure all the proceedings of that public hearing were taken quite accurately. And no we heard the pros and cons. And of course, some people were for you know, bombing, that's their thing, maybe that's the way they can show their position.

But what we decided was, let's go through the second hearing, get everything in so that the barangay council, after getting all the data together, can then review its existing position and maybe some changes could be introduced to answer the concerns of everybody. At that time, it didn't matter anymore if it was pro or con, we just wanted to have all the recommendations that would make the process as lawful, you see.

The objective of a good ordinance is it must be legal, and second, it must not contravene an existing city ordinance. If it contravenes an existing city ordinance, I think it is the responsibility of the barangay council to adjust.

From that time on, after that March 19 meeting, we've been getting all of this inputs and we've been discussing this, trying to wait for more time to elapse, to give the government leaders who were there some more position quite clearly, but I think the council said, okay, even if we do have the minutes of the meeting, it would still be good to get official position papers from those groups and individuals. That way, we can hasten for the decision-making process will be complete. They were given 15 working days to submit their positions. And that last day of that will be this Holy Wednesday.

Contrary to what those and people are saying, we are not bigots, number one.

Number two, we have the interest of our constituents at heart, regardless of what position they're in. Because this is today's issue.

We have so much work to do for the next three years. And we're saying if the city council reconsider this ordinance, then so be it. They have the absolute legal right to do that.

When do you intend to announce the resolution?

Based on our conversations, the deadline is Wednesday night, so we have Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday to work this over so by Monday morning, which is Easter Monday we can already give our position papers to the city council. That's our target. I think we can achieve it.

But ultimately, it's going to be the city council's decision?

Yes.

Did you expect the kind of protest that you have gotten?

No. We really did not. We were really surprised. The reason some were against the ordinance because of the penalty. Because the penalty is not stated by the barangay council, it is stated by the city council. Because the penalty is not stated by the barangay council, it is stated by the city council. The penalty is stated by the city council. The penalty is stated by the city council. The penalty

# of birth control

ally get a condom or a contraceptive pill? They can buy without any prohibition. So they assume buy a cigarette or beer without they are 18 years old. I mean, tell me, where is the logic of this thing?

One of the major revisions we did to the ordinance is to specifically target the protection of minors and not talk about people who are 18 and above. We feel, as they say, that they are old enough to make their own decisions and therefore, who are we to impose on them? We said, let's just worry about the minors here. It's very clear.

Are you expecting the ordinance to result in less sales?

Hopefully. I think this current will actually stay anyway because by Easter Monday, when we submit our proposed ordinance to the city council, we can expect here a my sole where that will go. That's the law. Don't present with us, you could get anything because. You don't see that sticker.

Has your law left the bowl?

Oh yeah, we've left the bowl and we've left around. We're being challenged by being religious, by being conservative people, we should not get involved in this issue, we should stick to our building. Stick to [illegible] matters. We have followed the process very very well, grossly. Two days ago, we came out with this consultation to clarify our position. It's different.

Have you gotten feedback about it?

Nothing negative so far, except from those... You know the problem. We have to draw are some personalities who are very very strong. They will do anything to make sure they stay as small people like us and put us in their place in order to further their cause. But we said, it's actually not our cause. It's a completion of what the majority think. And we're very strong about that.

Has your family left the bowl, too?

Oh yeah, definitely. They've been putting pressure on my family, too.

What do you mean?

I get a lot of calls from newspapers and media people. And I said, after the second hearing, no more media. Because, number one, it's just sparking more controversy and, number two, there's really no need to talk about it further. You're actually the first one I've actually talked to.

How soon will the city council be able to come up with a decision?

They have to come up with something within 30 days, because automatically if it's not done, the ordinance becomes enforceable.

There were reports of a guy who wasn't allowed to buy condoms when shot a video...

You know, when that was thrown to us by some media people who said, "Hey, is it true?" I said, do you know that as exactly the same time there was a kid who was buying a condom in the next store? Did anybody stop them? Nobody did. That's crazy and that is, with no intelligence.

Have you heard from companies like Mercury Drug?

No, surprisingly. No commercial company, including manufacturers, have come to us to complain. We were quite surprised. They're probably also waiting for what the result of this would be.

Is there anything you want to tell those people who've been protesting?

Sure. those who are not protesting and are quiet, we'd like to let them know that we're still the same campaign officials who came in here in the spirit of transparency and to protect their interests and we do not celebrate. We are just trying to do our jobs as honestly as we can. We would like to assure them that we will process the hearings professionally and make sure that it is always in good hands during our term.

Is there anything else you want to add?

Only that this is a new experience. This is new. I'd like to personally be a politician because I'm not a politician. I'm not comfortable being a politician. This is probably telling our dear people this is not the right answer. (Laughs)

By Irene C. Perez

Summer is the time to update your wardrobe with new sunglasses, breezy dresses, perhaps a new bikini and board shorts. Time for a bottle of sunscreen and a pair of eyeglasses. It's also the time for barbeque, fresh salads, fruit smoothies and ice cream. Now shopping and doing your grocery gets more attractive when you get something back with your purchases. It's a "gift" so you'll feel extraordinarily extravagant and chic.

Like our trusty issued HSBC card-Visa MasterCard, HSBC Premier MasterCard and HSBC Platinum Visa-and get an instant P100 reward for your May needs. The HSBC's Free P100 Reward with Every Swipe promo lets you have a P100 off vouchers and products in Beauty Fix Salon, Body Midday of Blending, Blue Water Day Spas, The Body Shops and The Face Shops.

Here's how: It goes, buy something worth at least P1,000 with your HSBC card, keep your charge slips and present them within 30 days to any of the qualified shops together with the card you used. A call of a product or service and get P100 discount right of a transaction.

"Women have gotten the hang of using credit cards, especially as in the past five years, said HSBC senior vice president and head of personal financial services Annette Tirol. The HSBC Red MasterCard, for instance, was developed specifically for women.

"There is a larger middle class with more disposable income and many Filipinos have realized that using a credit card offers more security, more reliance and value for hard-earned money," she said, adding that the bulk of purchases isn't really be pointed out to a specific "necessities."

"Women buy depending on needs, situations or occasions. Some buy bags or shoes; I prefer a massage, and there are those who splurge on a round-trip or first-class ticket to exotic lands; and they deserve it, and when they use their HSBC Red MasterCard, they get practical rewards that they can really use."

Free P100 gift pass

For instance, using your HSBC card earns you a discount for the dresses at Forever 21, maybe a massage voucher for the home, or a new kitchen set for the family.

HSBC's Free P100 Gift Pass at SM with Every Swipe Feature is for all HSBC Red MasterCard, HSBC Premier MasterCard and HSBC Platinum Visa cardholders. With the same conditions as the P100 Free Gift coupons, every P1,000 purchase with your HSBC card lets you have a P100 discount, but this time in the form of a voucher.

To redeem your P100 SM Gift Pass, present to our cardholder the original charge slip at a Customer Service Counter in any SM Mall within 30 days. You can now use the P100 SM Gift Pass for shopping in SM Department Store, Forever 21, Ace Hardware and Xpress Central; loading grocery items in SM Hypermarket, SM Supermarket, Save More and Makro; and cardshows and personal care products in Watsons; purchasing home furnishing in Landmark, Our Home, SM Appliance, Kultura Filipino; getting little gifts at Kiddy A Co. and Toy Kingdom. You can also use it in SM Cinemas!

Please remember that for both promos, you cannot "split" your purchases to have more transactions and consequently discount (say, purchasing P1,000 worth of shoes with two payments of 500, to be good use of your charge slips because failed ones will not be honored. It's best to keep paper stuff away in a separate sleeve or pouch from cosmetics. Be extra careful, hand sanitizers, moisturizers, statement of account will not be honored.

Note that the promos don't apply to online transactions but you can use as many charge slips as you can. If you have 10, fancy as can get P1,000 rebate.

Total gives important tips on avoiding overspending second. "Avoid impulse buying. It doesn't matter if it isn't your money. Use a budget and stick to it. Try to pay off your balance in full every month. Think long and hard about your big-ticket purchases, especially. Indicate a clear investment. Don't spend more than you can afford. Don't buy stuff you don't need or don't have room for. If they get lost or stolen, report them immediately so that you're not liable for any bills the thief may rack up."

Know the perks and take full advantage of them, apart from the P100 discount, you can also get airline deals in Starbucks, score free gas at Caltex with your HSBC Red MasterCard. Be a wise smarter shopper and spend wisely this summer and all year long.

Swipe away, and stay chic this summer

Red ankle strapped sandals with multi-colored beads

Caterpillar green wedge with buckle and floral prints

Pewter/red/nude wedge with bow

Purple floral print wedge with bow

EYE CANDY

Tan ankle strapped sandals with multi-colored beads

Your darlings will probably squeal with glee upon seeing the latest sandals by Sugarkids. For this season, candy colored embellishments are in abundance with a wide array of designs you can help but indulge them all.

Lavender ankle strap wedge with bow

Sky blue wedge with bow-tie and floral prints

FUN TO STRUT

What makes these wedges extra spectacular: its fun colors and cute prints.

Steppin into Summer

SM Department Store brings out the best summer for your little ones with **Sugarkids**

Multi-colored strapped sandals with multi-colored beads and stones

Pink strapped sandals with colored stones and beads

Purple strapped sandals with colored embellished shoes

Bright pink espadrilles with multi-colored heart prints

Floral print espadrilles with pink lace

BRING IN THE SUNSHINE

Espadrilles are perhaps the perfect summer must-haves. Just like the place where it come from-sunny Spain, owning these lovelies can brighten up your day.

Sky blue lace-up espadrilles

Blue green polka dot espadrilles with lace

Violet espadrilles with multi-colored heart prints

Striped red and white espadrilles with raffia

Photography Marlo Ines Arap • Styling Josh Carlo Ilos Jaen • Makeup Paolo Manzano for Paul & Joe • Hair John Valdez | Trend Professionals • Model Chloe for Funa Recruitment Services

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Hue–Vietnam's former royal capital, and a shrine to malleable history /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

2 prominent families settle score over 'rape'–with an apology

ALL'S WELL that ends well.

It wasn't mortal combat, after all.

Two weeks ago, society was set ablaze when Thumbs Up Thumbs Down reported that two of the country's prominent families were headed for a head-on collision all to the daughter of one family told people, becoming irich her actor boyfriend, that the son of the other family—a bank executive—raped her when they were living in New York. The alleged rape was supposed to have happened in the '90s, nine years ago.

This would have been nothing more than s the said she said matter, had not the actor boyfriend expectedly confronted the bank executive and called him a rapist, and even him nasty e- mail, and even rapist-bully starred down the bank executive's young wife in a public lobby.

The bank executive's family vowed that the girl raped was only as the bank was engaged to be married a few years ago. Now, the bank and his young wife—the eldest daughter of a TV icon—didn't like this nasty talk and what-they deemed was his treatment. (Not who wouldn't)

Worse, the mother of the bank executive was enraged by it all. It didn't help that she and the girl's parents have been not only old friends, but more like family to each other, together through thick and thin.

Fearing that her son had been tagged a "rapist," the woman—a society doyenne who I as an aside was said voted as sharp-tongue (she's as capable of smoothing perfected milieu, just as she is able to whip up a gourmet dinner for a visiting chairman of a foreign bank)—hired a lawyer to demand a written apology from the actor boyfriend. An apology, or charges would be filed.

Frankly, last week, the actor boyfriend signed a written apology to the bank executive, admitting, the letter said, that "I said and did things that caused you to be insulted, maligned and threatened, and unfairly involved your mother, mother in law and wife. I now know that I have been mistaken in my judgment of you, and am extremely ashamed of the words I used against you and for my behavior. If I could take back what I did and said, I would, as I now regret the pain and anxiety I have caused you and your family."

The letter also stated the boyfriend would not set foot again in the building where the bank executive and his family reside, and in future encounters with the bank executive and his family will not cause confrontation between him and the other party.

It is said that what also helped ease the tension was when the girl's father visited the bank's mother to clarify matters and clear the air. Old ties still bind.

Lesson: Never cross a mother. Make that: Never cross a mother who believes in forgiveness.

Is that business attire?

MAKE IT a habit to read the dress code and fall foul it when you get an e-vite. Your call a good rule to follow even in this era of post-modern etiquette when flip flops are worn to the office or, in the other extreme, dreadlocks cocktail freaks are worn to business events.

Heed the edict but you run into a road mythes, like this fashion designer who couldn't help herself and walked up to a matron who was wearing what the designer called "a prom dress for an 18-year-old, complete with sweet heart bodice." The matron said "business prim." The designer casually asked the matron, "Is that business attire?"

Uh, it depends on what business you're in. But the matron didn't say that. The matron said something before—"This is my event"—so it meant she could be in anything she pleased.

Actually, no.

The 30-ha development will be built by the water

SM's cool summer party launches Cebu's biggest mall

SM SUPERMALLS has launched SM Seaside City Cebu, one of the first developments to be built as part of SM Properties' SM Seaside Complex.

It's a 30-ha project which will have sleek, high-rise residential buildings, a massive conference and convention center, a church, and other community facilities.

Aptly named, SM Seaside City Cebu is to be built by the water, designed by Miami-based architecture and interior design firm Arquitectonica. Inspired by the tradition, it will have expanding concentric arcs from a central multi-functional plaza. Its façade is modern in polished silver metal that will reflect the sun above and the sea below.

The SM Seaside Complex will be the biggest in Cebu, as it was only fitting for SM to pull out all the stops at the launch.

Nine hundred of Cebu and Manila's glitterati flocked to the five-star Radisson Blu Cebu hotel for the event.

HANS lly giving his welcome remarks

HANSEN Partners, Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama and Rosa Ily

HAROLD Pinlac Jr., Amy Gaisano and Arquerito Uraliller

PHILIP Rodrigues and Diding Jose

SHY CONCEPCION with Alice and Bernie Lin

MARLENE and Alicia Montelaude

RAYE and Elvira Lopez

More than 100 mall tenants flew in from Manila.

Guests were greeted to live cat music as they walked into the Santa Maria Ballroom, which had been transformed into an alfresco, ultra-chic space with a lighted acrylic bar right in the center. In the mezzanine design, drama flowed through the night.

The focal point was a modern art installation... The Cube, the symbol for SM Seaside City Cebu, flanked on each side by sculptures in the shape of sails.

Both the installation and the bar were designed by Leon Barandino, one of the many artistic talents of Cebu. Barandino runs the known duo but designs of bags and other fashion accessories.

Attention was given the smallest details. For instance, individual framed photos were given guests as a memento, a disarming, personal touch.

The business of partying

Guests were welcomed by Hans ily president of SM Prime Holdings Inc., and the rest of the program was kept short to leave more time for partying. The crowd was just the right mix—industry heavyweights such as Arquitectonica Restaurant Boulevard, and Dos. shoppe, and bright young achievers who will be shaping the town's business and social landscape in the not so-distant future.

The Seaside Chic dress code made for a cool, laid-back vibe. Women were in cocktail and summer dresses in neutral and vivid hues. Some donned nautical stripes as their take on a Seaside Chic, while the men came in linen shirts and pants.

Indeed, the SM Seaside City Cebu launch was the perfect way to chill.

CHRIS and Nia Aldegoer with Donna and Tony Lee seated

IAN TAN, Allen Tan, Winter Cho and Cheryl Tio

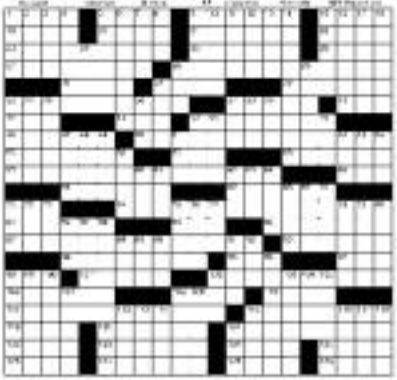
ARCHIE Rodrigues and Noel Mirasol

CEBU Daily News' Tina Reyes and Jaime Pimentel

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

CONFECTION COLLECTION



answer on page H3

International SOS comes to rescue of OFWs

INTERNATIONAL SOS, a leading international healthcare, medical assistance and security services company, has launched a special program that, with translated insurance companies in the Philippines, provides overseas foreign workers access to 24/7 medical assistance services worldwide.

According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Department, there were 1,422,386 Filipinos working overseas in land and sea based assignments in 2009, with the greatest numbers working in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Qatar and Singapore.

"Following amendments to the Migrant Workers Act, all agency-hired workers intending to travel overseas for work must have access to medical assistance services when they are working overseas," said Harold Pridal, general manager of International SOS Philippines.

"Peace of mind is assured should any assistance be required overseas simply through one phone call."

Under Section 27-A of the Act amending Republic Act No. 10022 (known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act), a compulsory insurance policy is required for all agency-hired migrant workers deployed overseas.

Policy must cover accidental and natural death, total or permanent disablement, repatriation of any worker when his/her employment is terminated, repatriation or return of mortal remains, subsistence allowance benefit, and money claims arising from the employer's liability.

International SOS' specially tailored OFW program offers 24/7 medical evacuation and repatriation services, repatriation of mortal remains and arrangement of compassionate visitations by family members.

Overseas medical assistance services are compulsory inclusions in insurance policies as a result of the amended Act.

International SOS also offers other value-added services that maximize and add to their services such as medical information, advice and reassurance by doctors over the phone, medical service provider referral, arranging appointments with local doctors or dentists and guarantee of medical expenses during hospitalization.

Now on its 35th year, International SOS operates a worldwide network of alarm receive centers and rapid response where member needs emergency and non-emergency assistance.

Multilingual doctors and nurses, and air and ground logistics personnel in the alarm centers are on hand to respond rapidly to any emergency or call for assistance from its members.

International SOS has a global network of over 60,000 accredited network providers, including doctor's offices, hospitals and clinics.

Across the world, there are 7,600 employees with research's third being medical professionals – emergency trained physicians, general practitioners, Advanced Life Support (ALS) medics or paramedics and nurses.

Operating in the Philippines since 1996, International SOS is the only assistance company in the country to offer integrated assistance services worldwide.

International SOS' state-of-the-art alarm center in Manila handled 41,276 calls alone in 2010.

International SOS has also launched a 24/7 Pre-Work program for employees in the Philippines as some employees are assigned overseas in remote locations can jobs that require specialized skills, for example, in oil and gas or shipping industries. Trained and certified medical personnel individually tailor the Pre-Work program to match specific requirements of the employer and covers preemployment medical examinations, review and verification of fitness, and the issuance of certificates.

Members include 65 percent of the Global Fortune 500 companies.

For further information, contact Melissa Hernidez or Rachel Tillotson, account management officers, tel. 6870000; e-mail them to mel.hernandez@internationalsos.com.

INTERNATIONAL SOS' specially tailored OFW program offers 24/7 medical evacuation and repatriation services.

THE SPORTING LIFE AT SPORTS CENTRAL

Summer is the best time to explore the great outdoors and discover the beauty of nature with family and friends. It's also the best time to start a sport that will not only keep you fit but will also encourage teamwork and a healthy lifestyle. And who knows, you could be a champion someday.

Sports Central, the store where one can get great gear at great prices, gathered together National University's Assistant Athletic Director Bobby Parks, Sr., Philippine Women's University's Athletic Director and Bells Channel's Football Ambassador Marielle Benitez, mountaineer Bea del Rosario, and tri-athlete Philip Roxas talk to us about the sporting life. They also share with us their summer picks from Sports Central's premium brands like Adidas, Nike, Converse, Puma, Reebok, Sandugo, and more.

Check these out at Sports Central stores at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview, the SM Mall of Asia, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Batangas, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Baguio. These are also available at Adidas Shops at the SM City North Edsa Annex and The Block, SM City Fairview, SM Sta Mesa, SM Mall of Asia, SM City Clark, SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, and SM City Cagayan de Oro. You can also find these at the Nike Concept Shop at SM City North EDSA. Also visit our website at www.sportscentral.ph

BOBBY PARKS, SR. – Hardcourt Hero

His Sports Central Picks

Asstd Nike Replica Basketball Jersey Top

Adidas Star Wars track top

Adidas climalite dynamo fit pants

Adidas shine 3/4 bomb pant with mesh lining

Adidas is a fan of Kobe Bryant so he picks the Nike Zoom Kobe IV shoes

MARIELLE BENITEZ – From the Dance Floor to the Football Field

Her Sports Central Picks

Vans Converse like shirt

Converse cycling shorts

Forospider red Zoo! canal bottle tote bag

Converse All Star hi cut black Kung vanish

Converse trucker cap

Marielle picks All Star Converse bag for sport training

BEA DEL ROSARIO – Peak Performance

Her Sports Central Picks

Bea picks Nike dry-shirt for family's summer get-aways

Adidas Originals track jacket

Lightweight Nike bag with soft and comfort wide shoulder straps

Adidas low cut trainer shoes footwear

PHILIP ROXAS – All Around Athlete

His Sports Central Picks

Adidas Climacool jersey

Adidas Originals hooded track jacket

Nike compact backpack for training, gym or fitness

Adidas Adizero F50 Runner shoe

IN THIS ISSUE

■ For Kate and William, it's a love story—and a tough old job /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Escudero new watch endorser

SEN. Escudero wears Technomarine's Manta Touchscreen

SEN. FRANCIS Joseph "Chiz" Escudero is the new endorser of Technomarine watches.

The senator has become an inspiration to many Filipinos, especially the youth. Starting his political career at a young age, Escudero has spent more than half of his life in the public eye, and is today regarded as one of the country's most well-known and credible public servants.

At 28, Escudero became a teacher, TV host, lawyer and a

He hates being late. 'All of us have time, the only difference is how we use it'

A season of grace—and a time to be whole again

Each school year, around five students in my class would talk about coming from broken families—and inevitably they would break down and cry

By Fr. Tito Caluag
contributor

PARKER PALMER, an inspiring and famous Quaker writer and educator, states that all of us come into this world with birthright gifts. I share the

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LIFE HALDAUPH Yachting Swiss-Made Chronograph with Pink Gold Bezel, Stainless-Steel Case and Crystal Sapphire with anti-reflective treatment

LIFE Magnum Swiss-Made Chronograph with Stainless-Steel Case and Crystal Sapphire with anti-reflective treatment

Escudero new watch endorser

Front page ink

SEEN. Francis "Chiz" Escudero wears a TechnoMarine LIFE Magnum Yacht.

legislation. Among the different awards he has won is the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM) in 2005.

A father of two, a lawyer, a teacher, a lawmaker, Escudero makes sure he is able to divide his time equitably. His versatility in maintaining a multi-faceted life is a testament to his time-management skills as well as commitment in the many roles he has taken unto himself.

He is a stickler for time, and hates being late. "In the first place, this is the only thing that makes all of us equal—time. All of us have it, the only difference is how we use it," he says.

Escudero starts his day with three glasses of water and sweet kisses from his two children, and also ends it again in the company of his kids. Fix-obsessed, he says, is his greatest accomplishment.

On ordinary days, Escudero spends time reading and reviewing laws and bills and rushing to his many appointments.

On him, people mean service in droves and believe, because they're the only things in the world people can do for free. But the discerning must also come with hard work and persistence. His own life is an example of that.

CRUISE Original Star Magnum Chronograph with Pink Gold Bezel, Stainless Steel Case and Mineral Glass

LIFE Magnum Swiss-Made Chronograph with Stainless-Steel Case and Crystal Sapphire with anti-reflective treatment

WEARING a TechnoMarine Cruise Original Star Magnum

'7 Last Words' on Channel 13; 'Siete Palabras' on 7

TODAY, Bill survey can pulse-beats to church and raise them where the pieces comes to film-them. We raise them to com-memorate the Jesus' sufferings of Christ when he entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

Also, the scenario would change on Good Friday when the very same people who welcomed him would crucify Him.

It was on Good Friday in 1997 when Bro. P Cardus of ABC Productions mounted on TV the program, "Seven Last Words."

He continues to do so. This year he and his daughter Mary Cynthia, executive producer and director, are presenting "The Seven Last Words, Year 14" on Good Friday, April 22, 12 noon-3 p.m. on Channel 13.

Fr. Emerpando Campaña, OCP Executive Secretary for the Commission on Youth, will host together with broadcaster Nikki Cheibi Abaja.

Homilies include Cebu Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco, Fr. Bridge Cano, parish priest of San Carlos Borromeo Church in Mandaluyong; Fr. Francis Montero, parish priest of Binondo Church; Fr. Silvio Belmonte of St. Michael Parish in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon; Fr. Nelson Oseo, OSJ of the Carmelite Chapel in Cagayan de Oro City; Fr. Fritz Dalmin of the Archdiocese of Manila; Iloilo Bishop Claro Rajo.

The program is supported by Remate Life Insurance Company, Robinsons Cars, SWEL, Bistrun Plaza, Baguio Oil, Cibeles Shoes, Myrenie Chemicals, Pagcor and Lukas Island Corporation.

'Siete Palabras' on GMA-7

Meanwhile, the Seventeen Province of the Philippines (OFP) will mount, also on Good Friday, 12 noon-3 p.m., its annual "Siete Palabras" (Seven Last Words) at the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City.

Theme that year is, "Ang Pasyong Mahal na Bithay at Jesus." Produced by the OFP Provincial Media Board and homilies of Preaching, the program will air on GMA 7.

Reflections on Christ's seven last words will be delivered by distinguished Dominican preachers: Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, Fr. Enrico Gonzales, Fr. Tarcisio Luna, Fr. Nicanor de la Cruz, Fr. Allan Lopez, Fr. Roman Ramos and Fr. Elio Lombardo.

'Visita Iglesia' in words

For the past years, Manila Bread has been organizing the "Visita Iglesia" during Holy Week. This year it is holding the "Pilgrimage to the Pacific" covering the most beautiful churches in Visayas, Luzon, Mindanao, Negros, La Union, Laoag, Ilocos and up to Batanes. The best hotels have been reserved.

Other tours in Holy Week include tours of Korea, Hong Kong, Macau, Bangkok, India and Singapore and Malaysia. Call 521-1611, 5222078 or 5211651.

'Cordero' festival in Morong

In the quaint town of Morong, Rizal is a unique religious festival observed by Roman Catholics on Holy Thursday.

"Cordero" (Lamb of God) is a commemoration of the ways how the Lamb became a symbol of Jesus, according to records. "Cordero" was first observed in Morong, Rizal was in 1911 with Mahinlo Bernardino as the hermits.

"Nazarenados" in Spanish means "nazarenos." This is the name of a Church based organization in Morong which will build the Cordero procession of Jesus Christ's Passion, Crucifixion and Death (with 45 images) belonging to the members on April 21. Masonry Honcho Sims point-

ed out all images have been restored at the Morong gymnasium, such as Jesus is stripped of His garments (owned by Phil Santiago), Satan Thomas (owning the wounds of Jesus Garry Fernandez), and the Betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot (Arvin Fernandez).

Nine books by Carmelite writer

In time for Holy Week, the Carmelite writer, Sr. Rosita Joseph Patrick of Jesus and Mary OCD, has issued her book of meditations titled "Mary Pen, dots." Based on the 14 Stations of the Cross, the meditations accompany Mother Mary as she walks with Jesus on the way to Calvary and as she stands beside with Jesus on his Cross.

The book is now available at the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese on 4 Gilmore Avenue, Quezon City. Sister Teresa lives in that monastery today. She is known to UP alumni as professor Aurelia Constantino, teacher of literature and newspaper columnist of many years.

DOT's Lenten pilgrimages

According to Department of Tourism Director for Region 2 Rosalie Rotairo, Northern Philippines is an ideal destination to fulfill people's Lenten religious obligations and at the same time explore the region's cultural treasures.

She names the historic Our Lady of Carmel Church in Maddela, Isabela, also popularly known as Basilonia Church. Also within the city is the Basilica Minore de Immaculada Concepcion whose convent became the presidential quarters of the Philippine Republic led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. The seat of Diocese of Malolos, it was declared a basilica in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.

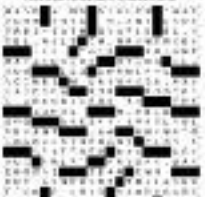
At the Holy Rosary Church in Angeles City, Pampanga is the miraculous image of the " Apung Mamanalulo." Our Lord of the Holy Sepulcher.

Day 2 takes pilgrims to the Monasterio de Tarlac or the shrine of the relic of the True Cross in San Jose, Tarlac which contains the relic of the wooden Cross were Jesus Christ was nailed. Then to Our Lady of Manaoag in Pangasinan where many miraculous healings have taken place, including my own, for recovered memory despite the nurse's history, waiting with the arrival of the Augustinians in 1668.

Call (063) 9042012/5617, 6258320; e-mail: rrdiaz@yahoo.com; visit www.visitmypilgrimage.com.

St. Expeditus feast day

Fr. Dionisio Cacas will celebrate the feast day of St. Expeditus on April 19 with a Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. at the Sanctuary Healing Center in Lagro Village, Quezon. The National Devotion Foundation and the Divine Mercy Philippines, under the spiritual guidance of healing priest Fr. Jerry Orbos, founder of the Mary Mother of the Poor Foundation, invite you to enter into the spirit of St. Peter through a Mass, Novena, Lenten Recollection, on Holy Thursday, April 21, in Mount Maria, Batangas Antipolo, Rizal, Cavite. Call 7231377.



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Holy Week
at Eastwood City

In keeping the solemnity of the country's religious traditions, Eastwood Mall, City Walk 1 and 2 and Cyber and Fashion Mall will follow these schedules:

April 18-20		11am – 10pm
April 21	Holy Thursday	CLOSED
April 22	Good Friday	CLOSED
April 23	Black Saturday	11am – 11pm
April 24	Easter Sunday	10am – 10pm

Though the malls are closed, you may dine in some of the participating restaurants in the 100 Days of Healthy Eating during Holy Week:
Johnny Rockets, BluFish, Flying Pig, Italianni's, Starbucks in 1880 Building

You can also have confession at the Holy Family Chapel on:

April 21	Holy Thursday	4pm – 10pm
April 22	Good Friday	10am – 12nn

Mass schedules will be on Easter Sunday (April 24) at: 11am, 12nn, 5pm and 6:15pm

Everyone's invited to observe Holy Week with these schedules at Eastwood City. Joining the Easter Sunday festivity will be Easter and Woodluck's 7th birthday in the Seven Super Party Themed Worlds of Easter Wonderland.

Eastwood City

For inquiries, call the Eastwood Mall Concierge at 709-0888
www.eastwoodcity.com • facebook.com/eastwoodcity • twitter.com/eastwoodmall

CARMELA Dunlit of Samsung with Sam Frederick Lim and Mia Chua of Automatic Center

SEPCO.SV business advisor Jay Ha and Sepco president and CEO KC Park

GUESTS Lipton of Glass Marketing, Samsung executives Jane Viola and Anita Marzo-o, Jack Uy of Sanex Appliances

Samsung unveils cutting-edge new products at 2011 roadshow

SAMSUNG UNVEILED its portfolio of 2011 consumer electronics highlighted by new smart TVs and customer-inspired, easy-to-use cameras at the company's 2011 Samsung All Roadshow.

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation (Sepco) set an exciting course for sustained growth in the Philippines at the annual Samsung All Roadshow opened last week at the Grand Ballroom of Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Before hundreds of media and partners, Samsung executives led by Sepco president KC Park discussed strategic initiatives and exciting new products from the digital imaging and audio-visual divisions.

Samsung also reaffirmed its commitment to the environment, in terms of innovative new product features and new green initiatives.

The very edge of entertainment

For 2011, Samsung has redesigned the TV screen by making the bezel, which until now has traditionally framed the TV, virtually disappear, reducing it to 0.2 inches wide, providing more screen. This means that people can put a larger screen into an area that previously could fit only a smaller one.

The Samsung D6900 Plasma series showcases Samsung's breakthrough Plasma 3 design, which features a new narrow bezel design so customers get an extra inch of viewable screen size without increasing the outside dimensions of the set.

"In 2010, Samsung blurred the line between technology and art with the introduction of the LED 9000, which included a beautiful metal design on the bezel, and which was Samsung's slimmest LED TV ever at less than 0.1 inches thick," said Mehdi Arbia, Sepco business unit head. "In 2011 Samsung is continuing to blend technology and art and taking TV design one step further."

Samsung has also incorporated advanced smart TV features so people can get the most out of their entertainment experience. Samsung's Smart Hub is a simple menu system to connect, discover, and enjoy a wide range of content.

Users can easily search for movies, shows and videos via online services and across connected devices, browse the Web from your TV, and access a wide variety of apps from Samsung Apps, the world's first IPTV-based apps store. Almost all of Samsung's 2011 TVs (6 series and above) will offer smart TV features.

With the unveiling of its newest TV innovations, Samsung also announced the latest in its lineup of Blu-ray players. Among them is the BD-C6500, the world's slimmest 3D Blu-ray disc player with the innovative 3D conversion that enables consumers to enjoy 3D experience with partners, movies and streaming video.

Ease of use with innovation

To help consumers stay connected to the world, Samsung unveiled its newest digital cameras and camcorder offerings. The SH100 allows photos to be posted straight to Facebook or YouTube in real time, and can automatically back up photos on a PC. This is also the first camera that connects live to an Android smart phone, so it can use the phone to view the shot about to be taken in real time. A smartphone can also be used to view GPS information about where each photo was taken.

Samsung also introduced its latest offering in its popular line of Dual View cameras, the ST700. The dual-view system was originally created in 2009 and transformed the way self-portraits were taken. With the new ST700, Samsung has built on its original DualView design, adding its largest ever front screen and features like Smart Filter 2.0, which gives a range of different photo effects. The HZ10W, ST700 and WB210 all feature Samsung's Interactive Smart Access User Interface, which allows for easy use of key features with simple touch recognition.

Building on its popularity of the WB13, Samsung unveiled a number of new lens kits. The WB13 will come complete with an 18-55 mm i-Function lens, as well as two new i-Function lenses, a 20-mm pancake and a 50-200 mm zoom silver-color lens.

A performance by world-class artists Gerard and Lea Salonga capped the whole-day event.

SAMSUNG LED series

SAMSUNG president and CEO KC Park and AV business advisor Jay Ha

ANGNOB

MONICA Llamas demonstrating the newest technological innovation by Samsung, the WB1000 capable of 3D HD content.

MIKKI Buenaventura of Samsung with Stephanie Ngo of Pharaon Marketing

AV Roadshow 2011

it has made the bezel, which until now has traditionally framed the TV, virtually disappear, reducing it to 0.2 inches wide

Bazaar showcases summer essentials

AMONG the bazaar's showcased items are those by Edwin F. Uy and ABBYLYN Bags & Shoes. Shown in photo are the latest collections modeled by Paula, Alvin and Natasha, styled by Dana Dacanay.

THE HEAT Mess Summer Bazaar, running on April 15-17 at the World Trade Center, will offer the hottest summer essentials from swimwear and cover-ups to accessories, footwear and the best summer getaway deals.

Up and coming entrepreneurs will feature their trendy summer items. It will also be the venue for Ogie and Regine's Getaway Shop. Ogie, who is the celebrity couple will auction donated pre-loved belongings to their celebrity friends.

Proceeds of the activity will benefit one of the long-term endeavors of GMA Kapuso Foundation relating to quality education, by expanding its Kapuso School Development project (formerly Kapuso School Rehabilitation Project).

The Heat Silver Summer Bazaar also features "My Heat Swimsuit Getaway Photo" Contest, Fashion Shows, Sports Clinics and Demos on Food Treats and Refreshments.

For inquiries, call Dot Dalmacio at 687-0654 or email sen@pldt.net.

A season of grace—and a time to be whole again

From page H1

cause belief.

We all come into the world with a specific mission, and the first major life task is to discover and understand this mission. The second is to live this out. However, this is always the difficult or fun part, depending on your temperament and outlook. We spend the first half (or quarter) of our lives dissipating those birthright gifts by ill-fitting values, as Oblater puts it, to distance us, in his fashioning somehow.

Just think of all the do's and don'ts we grow up with. "Do not write with your left hand, use your right." "A real man doesn't cry. Be strong." "Girls are not supposed to be rowdy."

Add to these the childhood traumas most of us experienced, ranging from something seemingly innocent—a six-year-old who thinks out a comment and is scolded for interrupting the adults—to a more insidious trauma. A young boy is bullied for a wrong his younger brother did, and later on, while still crying, is made to ride the bike to the police station to identify the culprit. Or, he already knows how to bike. It is either a father's attempt to make it up to him, or an outright violent experience, with a father shouting invectives and violently throwing things, which sends a young son hiding inside a cabinet.

Lost sense of wholeness

We lose our clear sense of identity and mission. We feel broken, in varying degrees, and lose our sense of wholeness.

So the hope also for writers As Thomas Merton, a popular Catholic spiritual writer and monk, writes, "There is in all things a hidden wholeness."

Priests, spirituality formation—there are ministration and expanders in our journey back to wholeness and rediscovering our identity and mission, our birthright gifts, our wholeness, in any integrity. The journey that begins with awareness, reminders like the story of our life.

I grew up in what we now call a dysfunctional family, and as I went through years of schooling and realized more and more this dysfunction, I became bitter, especially as I saw my classmates and coaches seemingly living more normal family lives. It was a pain and frustration I carried.

Right after college, I taught in the Marian de Manila High School, handling senior year classes for three years—among the happiest years of my life. It was there that I discovered—or rediscovered—my mission.

The first point I had cot to my home room or advisory class each year was that we had some good to relate to get everybody up the stage come graduation time. At that time, to have five students in each class not graduating due to attrition or repeating years was "normal."

After setting the standards of discipline and work ethic, the first few weeks of classes, I would see each student in my class, averaging 42 per class each year, one-on-one, for 15 minutes. In all those years, I used the same set of questions: 1) What are your strong areas? 2) What are the weak points we need to improve?

The third question I prefaced with this: "You may or may not answer this question. It's to have anything personal that might get in the way of your graduating."

Each year, around the students would talk about coming from broken families. **Perhaps it was the first time many of them shared this with someone they perceived as an adult, and inevitably they would break down and cry. At this moment I started to discover my own mission, and why I went through an experience of brokenness and pain.**

I would simply give the young man a **shoulder a gentle tap and tell him, "Go ahead. Just let it out. I know how it feels." Then I would share the silence** of pain, tears and healing with the young man.

Then I knew I wanted to teach for the rest of my life. I wanted to help young people discover their mission in life—guide them, mentor them through the journey of awareness and acceptance, remember their stories, celebrate the blessings and giftedness, heal the brokenness, and discover the mission—because I knew the pain of growing up without much adult guidance and mentoring.

Original inspiration

I knew I wanted to be this insider. This started my journey to both discover and live out my mission. And in the next 30 years of this journey, through all the convoluted twists and turns in the story it was—and always will be—Christ's original inspiration that kept getting back to.

"There is in all things a hidden wholeness." Lent and Holy Week are always seasons of grace that help us discover, rediscover, deepen our wholeness, our integrity, our identity and mission.

Lent is a period of preparation for the celebration of Holy Week, when we celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the Cross and the Resurrection. This is the identity and mission of Christ, and this is the central mystery and grace of our being Christian.

When Christ started his journey, he clearly saw this identity and mission in his baptism as Jesus, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Then, at a turning point in the story, after which he journeys to Jerusalem, the site of destiny where he is to fulfill his mission, in the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor we hear again, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

These are the so-called heatific visions where, with great drama, Christ saw who he was and why he was here.

At the end of Christ's journey, the mission is fulfilled, and we are most eloquently on the Cross and in the resurrection why Christ is the beloved son and how pleased the Father is. He is the beloved son because of his loving obedience to the Father's will, a love that led him all the way to the Cross. The Father also shows how pleased he is in the Resurrection.

This Holy Week, as we go to the services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, or enjoy time together with family and friends, let these words speak to you in the silence of your heart's and the depths of your soul: "You are my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased." Allow these words speak to you and lead you to a renewed sense of identity and mission.

Easter celebration at Makati Shang

WHAT'S UP

RAMADA SUITES MAKATI CAUSEWAY in the Luzon season with exciting activities for the whole family. Guests are invited to spend this week with loved ones at the hotel's luxurious accommodations, and dine in the hotel's world-class restaurants.

Local residents may enjoy an urban getaway with room package rates that start at P6,300+, inclusive of buffet breakfast at Circles Event Café for two persons, complimentary WiFi and breakfast meal service, complimentary meal talks and use of the outdoor pool and 10 percent off on Allen's Brunch Buffet and Family Activities on Easter Sunday. The Easter room package is available to local residents from April 18-24, with proof of residency required upon check-in.

On Easter Sunday, April 24, guests may experience Adventures in Wonderland as the Pool Ballroom transforms into a fantasy world of fun and games. An Easter egg hunt will be the highlight of the day. Buffet and activities price at P1,500 net for adults and P1,000 net for kids.

An activities only price is also available at P1,200 net per person. For guests in search of savory elegance, Red offers an Easter Sunday Brunch Spectator P2,188+. Guests can enjoy an epicurean Easter at Makati Shangri-La presents its lineup of delectable offers. Family and friends can celebrate the day at Circles Event Café with a selection of dishes to the Easter Sunday brunch buffet. Sharing a variety of international dishes ranging from seafood to salads and appetizers, Asian to Western, barbecue and desserts, at for P1,795+ per person. Guests may also celebrate at the great Easter cookout at the Pool Bar, featuring an array of appetizers, soup, grilled meat and seafood dishes for P895+ on April 23 to 24. Angkla offers Easter lunch buffet for P2,388+ per person. Red features a selection of fresh seafood paired with white wine in a special degustation menu from April 18-20, and the delicate flavors of spring lamb served à la carte for lunch and dinner from April 24-May 4.

For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 8888 local 7344 (7350 or e-mail reservations.cmsb@shangri-la.com. For hotel reservations, call 840-8884 or e-mail rsc.cmsb@shangri-la.com. Also visit shangri-la.com.

Luscious April at The Bellevue

The Bellevue Hotel, the luxurious five-star hotel in the Southern Metro, invites you to a taste of its indulgences, available this April. Countdown with the luscious Summer Taste, the hotel's scoop of the month made of vanilla ice cream, fresh mango, watermelon, pineapple and mango. You could also tide into the irresistible goodness of the hotel's cake of the month. Mango, which features decadent vanilla chocolate flavors topped with cherries. Appetizers were born this summer only at The Bellevue Hotel. For inquiries, call 771-0131.

SUMMER'S "NO MAKE-UP" LOOK AT SM

It's summertime, and looking fresh faced and under made is the look of the season. After all, there are days when a girl just needs her face to rest and take on the natural glow. It's on days like these that you can throw in the palette for the no make up look.

Most women assume that looking natural and glowing does not take much effort or skill. The opposite is true. Clean, glowing skin, just pinched cheeks, and subtly glossy lips need just the right amount of product, coverage, and some fancy brushwork to achieve.

Above all, it is important to begin with a bright and flawless face. Here, the Beauty Section of the SM Department Store shares with us some tips and products picks for that no make-up look.

Skin Solutions

- Prep skin with an oil-free moisturizer or primer. This will help your make-up go on smoother.
- Lightly pat a concealer on blemishes and uneven skin patches. It would also be better to use a flat brush to apply the concealer. If blemishes are near your eye area, choose a concealer shade lighter than your face.
- Even out your skin tone with a tinted moisturizer, which allows a subtle glow to shine through. For greater coverage, use liquid foundation. Always start with less, apply with short strokes, and make sure there are no visible lines.
- Dust areas that gets oily, such as the nose and parts of your forehead, with loose powder.
- Get a natural glow by applying blush on the apples of your cheeks. Go for pale tones, like light pink or peach.
- Spritz face with a facial mist to prevent any saliness and to keep skin fresh and dewy.

Au Naturelle Eyes

- Use powder that matches your hair color instead of a pencil to define eyebrows.
- Make eyes look fuller by applying mascara, but limit it to 1 or 2 coats to avoid clumping.
- Avoid eye shadow and gel liners. But if you really must, go for matte, neutral colors like brown. Avoid shimmery, dramatic shades.
- Apply gel liner to your upper lid (and never at the bottom) to make eyes look more naturally defined.

Love Those Lips

- Exfoliate lips with an old toothbrush to get rid of dead skin.
- Avoid lip liner and lipstick. Instead, dab tinted lip balm or gloss for a hint of color and shine.

BEAUTY EXCLUSIVES

Check out these new beauty finds only at SM! Find Majolica Majorca at the Beauty Section of SM Department Stores in Makati and Megamall, while Revlon is available in all branches and at Watsons stores nationwide.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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GRACE Poe-Llamanzares

Grace under pressure

Ratings board chair calls for industry summit in light of 'Willing Willie' controversy

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MARY GRACE Poe-Llamanzares, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), has been swamped with meetings of late— as a direct result of the raging controversy surrounding the TV5 show "Willing Willie."

Amid public outcry, the MTRCB is currently investigating the case of the 6-year-old boy who performed the body-wave dance—considered a "striptease" by some groups—on the game show.

Even her mother, movie queen Susan Roces, has been dragged into the fray.

Some critics have pointed out that Llamanzares should inhibit herself from the issue because Roces currently top-bills a TV5 soap, "Babaeng Hampaslupa."

"Out the movies of my father 20to his bottom King Fernando Poe Jr.) are also being issued by ABS-CBN," she told Inquirer Entertainment. "It's really hard to find an industry person who hasn't worked with the networks."

In any case, she noted, "legally, there's no reason to exhibit myself."

Board rules

She explained that the board's rules specifically "advise that 15 members should've been nominated by legitimate organizations from the movie and TV industries."

More importantly, she stressed that she has no power to decide over the matter as she had already turned it over to the three-member adjudication committee. "My only duty is administrative... to implement the committee's decision."

She hopes that the term will be resolved by the end of May or early June.

[She outlined the timeline for the case: April 19 is the day of the submission of position papers. Six days later, April 25, both TV5 and the board will submit their replies to the position papers. If there is a need for a clarification meeting, that would only take a day, the said. From the submission of the replies, the decision should be released in 30 days.]

"Personally I want a swift resolution, but we really have to be careful with regard to this issue especially because the board is a judicial-processing body."

GRACE/2

Advertiser power can be a double-edged sword

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS now, some members of the advertising industry have pledged to place their ads and commercials only in publications and programs that are responsible, cognizant and protective of the rights and welfare of children.

In actual practice, however, that vow has primarily remained just a pledge—until the recent "Willing Willie" controversy over the glaring entertainment of a child talent, which elicited widespread criticism and even outrage, and which has thus prompted some advertisers to cease spot placements on all game and variety shows involving minors.

That move has pleased the viewing and buying public, but it has generated pro-and con reactions from TV people and other advertisers.

Those who favor the more observer that it's a proactive step that advertisers are cognizant of the effects of their commercials beyond the economic factor, and see the withdrawal as supporting only those shows that are beneficial to the public, particularly to young and thus vulnerable and impressionable viewers.

Those who question it point out that, some years ago, "advertiser power" was used as a political tool to attempt to shut up and shut down publications deemed "unfriendly" to the government.

As for those who seek to reconcile these opposing views, they conclude that, being a perennially double-edged sword, advertiser power can be used to the advantage of social redress and reform, but never as a plea against freedom of speech and dissent.

The question is, who will determine that key difference? It stands to reason that the Ad Board and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, as well as the courts, should have a big say on the matter.

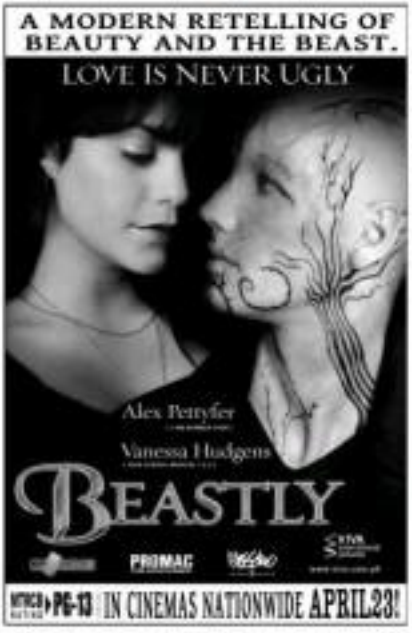
The P60,000 question is, now that advertiser power has been restrained and unleashed, will it persuade the rest of the TV industry to use the line and behave in a more responsible manner for bets as is?

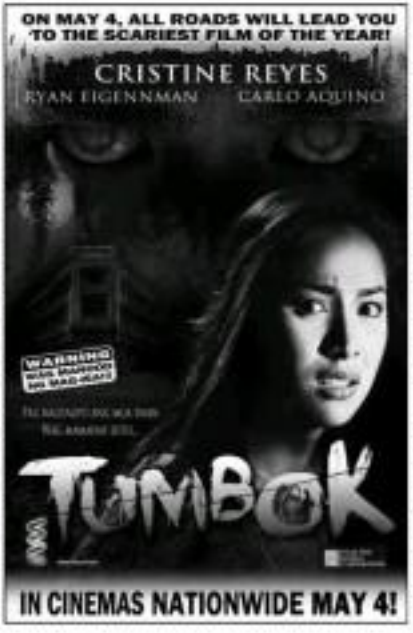
On the affirmative side: one TV system is financially backed by consumerads, unlike the British system, which is less dependent on advertiser support because it is financed by the annual license fees that viewers pay. So, money means power. It "talks," and the potential leaver it is therefore a powerful persuasive argument for errant TV stations and workers to toe the line and do their job responsibly.

On the other hand, some TV people think they're so popular, influential and powerful that they can't be told what to do by anybody, even by their bosses, some of whom are cowed by the ghost terminator' own tormented Star Power.

When push comes to shove, however, and swing programs' recourse, ic health and very survival may be at stake, it's likely that TV stations will be persuaded or compelled to listen, if not to the voice of reason, then to the cash and clamor of financial bottom lines being swelled —and breached.

WILLIE REVILLAME in the controversial "Willing Willie" episode





Grace...

From page 1

Gamesmen doesn't want the ratings board to be accused of "railroading the issue."

"We wonder if it's benchmark rates," she said. "How the ratings board will decide on the controversy can set a precedent on future cases ...involving the participation and portrayal of children on movies and TV shows."

Even before the "Willie" tempest, Gamesmen had already suggested the reopening of its legendary salary summit to discuss pertinent issues...including children's welfare vis-a-vis TV shows.

"When we had our first board meeting on March 8, we already discussed the drafting of a new ratings system," she recalled. "We're studying our IRR (Implementing Rules and Regulations)."

Rating system

One of the proposals that can be discussed is the addition to the expansion of the present rating system governing TV. "As of now, we only have G (General Audience)," she said. "In the United States, the ratings system for TV is very specific. They have TV-Y or TV-family, for example, to cover animated shows that have no-hint content."

She asserted, however, that a new ratings system should consider geography and language. "It should be mostly understood by the masses it should be in the vernacular, to guide parents on their kids' viewing fare. In Iloilo, it should be in Hiligaynon; in Ilocos, in Ilocano."

The summit, which will be composed of industry stakeholders, can look into the "possibility of the 10- or five-second delay for live shows" as well.

In light of the "Willie" controversy, the summit, set to June after the results of the case, will also formulate "specific guidelines for the portrayal and participation of children in movies and television."

MAJOR, MAJOR ENDORSER FOR PIZZA HUT'S NEW STUFFED CRUST PIZZA!

Pizza Hut's Stuffed Crust pizza is known for being so good, you'll eat it backwards. It has mouthwatering cheese baked right into the crust that melts in your mouth, immediately greeting your taste buds on a tasty, epic adventure. No one can say no to the irresistibly captivating aroma and taste of cheese. It's impossible to resist its seductive charm. What's better than baking cheese into the crust? Putting even more cheese!

Ever since the immense all-the-Rave phenomenon that is the Stuffed Crust pizza, Pizza Hut reinforced its reputation as the country's Pinoy-Pizza. No one thought that making this incredibly tasty dish any better, but by adding even more cheese to the pizza, Pizza Hut has just made a pizza that rocks for the judges.

"We noted the Filipino's love for cheese, and this is evident in every dish we do at home. Thus, we made our New Stuffed Crust Pizza even cheesier with 25% more mojito, major cheese ... for Filipinos to enjoy! As we are the only Pizza Restaurant that serves Stuffed Crust, we made sure that this re-launch will hit it big in our consumers by adding more cheese as a way of thanking them for loving our Stuffed Crust Pizza through the years," says Edgar Allan L. Capco, Advertising and Promotions Manager of Pizza Hut Philippines.

For Pizza Hut's launch of the new Stuffed Crust Pizza with 25% more cheese, they wanted an endorser who even many hearts all over the world and captivated many. They needed someone with the looks, beauty, and charm. They needed someone major – major major, to be precise.

"We knew immediately who to get, as Pizza Hut is a global brand we need to get a glo-cal (Global-Local) talent, local talent who is also known globally, and who else can better represent that but our other than Miss Universe Philippines 2010 and 4th runner-up to the Miss Universe Pageant Maria Venus Raj, a charming beauty who came from humble beginnings, fought through adversity, loved our love to our country but also the whole world. Just like our brand Pizza Hut, who else could better endorse Pizza Hut's new Stuffed Crust pizza?" Capco added.

"I am really excited and flattered that I am now part of the Pizza Hut Family and part of the re-launch of the new Stuffed Crust Pizza!"
– Venus Raj

During the media press launch held in Pizza Hut Glorietta, Mr Universe 6th Runner Up, Maria Venus Raj graced the event to introduce the new Stuffed Crust Pizza. Venus personally served the pizza to press-friends during the event. "I am really excited and flattered that I am now part of the Pizza Hut Family and part of the re-launch of the new Stuffed Crust Pizza!" Venus Raj said.

Venus enjoys treating herself to the new Stuffed Crust pizza with 25% more cheese after a glamorous red carpet event. What about you? Show the best way of eating the new Stuffed Crust pizza backwards and get a chance to win gift certificates worthy and

a Samsung Netbook on the grand draw. Just record a video or take a photo of yourself looking in the goodness of the new Stuffed Crust, share it on Pizza Hut Philippines' Facebook Wall and tag mom friends. Just check out http://www.facebook.com/pizzahutphil/app/mom for more info.

Pizza Hut is home to the country's Pinoy Pizza, serving awesome food with fun and friendly service. For more awesome dishes, check out Pizza Hut's website at www.pizzahut.com.ph or be a fan of Pizza Hut Philippines on Facebook.

With the addition of Maria Venus Raj as the Pizza Hut family and the launch of the new Stuffed Crust pizza with 25% more cheese, cheese lovers and discerning food enthusiasts everywhere can rejoice. Your cheesy cravings will be satisfied and it'll keep you coming back for more. For an incredibly delicious and cheesy experience like no other, try the new Stuffed Crust pizza with 25% more major-major cheese at any of Pizza Hut's dine-in restaurants or call 911-11-11 for delivery. It's guaranteed to be delicious and yummy ... major, major yummy!

Robert Pattinson talks about his 'secret'

LOS ANGELES—"It's a secret," said Robert Pattinson, breaking into laughter. He was just asked to talk some more about the script he is supposedly writing, based on a novel by Lillian Heilbrunn, as disclosed in a Variety front cover story on the actor by Kenny Ian Sallos.

Robert claimed that it was "one of those times when you say in an interview that this is off the record, when you are just really excited about something. She'll say, 'Yeah, of course.'"

The "secret" was disclosed to the entertainment press but Robert clarified that his screenplay project is not based on one of Lillian's novels. "It's just something Lillian Heilbrunn wrote." Laughing again, he said, "I can't really say what it is."

The "Twilight" series star balked at giving more details.

But other than that, he was his usual, easygoing self, quick to let the first one to laugh at himself. In our latest encounter at a meeting room in the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, he played with a water bottle as he fielded questions.

"I used to write a lot more when I wasn't getting acting jobs," he revealed. Describing, he said, "You dream about writing parts for yourself."

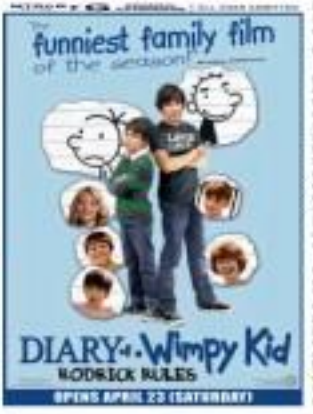
He added: "The more scripts you read and the more movies you see get made ... you think, what's the point in just producing something when you feel you can write something? I used to write all the time when I was younger ... I will probably write under a pseudonym, because otherwise everyone will just roll me eyes (melodramatically)."

Pattinson revealed details on another matter that has been drawing a lot of speculation...that he is playing Jeff Buckley in a biopic about the singer-songwriter who drowned in 1997. "I met his mom when it really grew," he said of Mary Guibert, executive producer of the film reportedly going to be directed by "Pleasantville" director Jake Scott. That Robert talked to Mary indicate that both are at least exploring the idea. "I don't know," he said, then hinted, "It's really not up to me. I just Jeff's music. He was amazing."

He is modest about his own musical abilities. "I don't really think I can sing like Jeff," Robert said. "He was unique. Also, I can't play guitar like him either. It would involve quite a lot of work."

If tomorrow just never comes Jeff's wore, it wouldn't be right. It's always about

"I USED to write a lot more when I wasn't getting acting jobs," says Robert Pattinson



Circus act

In "Water for Elephants," he plays a veterinary medicine student who drops out and joins a traveling circus that's trying to survive during the Depression. Asked if he has memories of watching a circus, he reminded: "I've been to a circus once in my life. My sister told me that a clown died when they did a stunt. I was only about 7 years old. I freaked out, but my sister told me when I was about 10 that she made it up. I still haven't been to a circus since I've done this movie. I really want to go again."

Robert, 24, who previously to be a fully licensed vet in the film, was asked if he has bluffed to medic. "Definitely," came his quick answer. "Sucking his stethoscope gets, he narrowed: "I was once played in London for ages. When I came to LA to audition, everyone said all the casting directors would be like, 'So what have you been doing all these years?' I was like, 'I've been studying. I went to college and then I went to RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art)." If just have an English accent, you can get away with it. I did it for years. A little bit after that, I realized that didn't really work anymore when loads of English people started moving to LA.

"So then I pretended to be an American for a bit and then when 'Twilight' came out, I still tried to pretend to be American. People thought I was insane at the auditions, so I stopped."

Solemnity and rage

Pressed for some details on "Breaking Dawn" Parts 1 and 2, Robert, who of course plays Edward Cullen, said: "The first film sat of the last two is definitely less solemn just because of the subject matter. There's a kind of finality to it. Edward is always so fraught about everything ... But in the second one, there is a kind of rage to finish off all his pervasive issues and be all. It's definitely a lot less so. Bill Condon is a very different director compared to the other ones we've had. So yeah, hopefully, it will be really different."

On rebellion: he still finds time to go back to London and if his hair-dyeing ant not as fervent as in other parts of the world, Robert answered: "It used to be like that but it has become a bit more normal in the last two years or so. I hardly ever get time to get back though, which is annoying. Generally, the people who come up to me in England are Indians and Americans.

"The English people are a little bit embarrassed to come up, but it's funny. I was in an HMV [music store] once ... years ago when I was last there. I was buying some ridiculous movie and there were 'Twilight' posters all over the store. Those two guys just literally refused to look up when they were singing up the register."

Starve host

He acknowledged have being away is a challenge to keeping in touch with family and friends. "It's quite difficult to stay close to your family because of the time difference," he admitted. "My family is in London. If you're working 16-hour days, you can't really call, especially because when you have a break, you just want to go to sleep. But luckily my friends do jobs which also involve touring around all the time so they're in the same boat. We all very much rely on our friendships staying strong even if we don't see each other for months."

E-mail the columnist at *vmpalo_5569@yahoo.com.*

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Pretty starlet can't hide rude manners

By the Entertainment staff

REMEMBER the Pretty Starlet who's a one-woman Tupperware party?

PS likes to hide her ill manners from Handsome Boyfriend, but she can't stop her victims from talking.

In the boutique-class section of a major airline, PS allegedly refused to call flight attendants formally — haughtily hissing "Ate!" when she needed something.

At a client for a cosmetics company, PS purportedly told the Pleasantried Owner: "Di I really have to use that makeup?"

PS promptly axed PR as co-dorser.

Throwing the dice

A witness swears that Married Actress and Controversial Personality... the subject of a recent Hacker item—have been spanned all over town.

They are said to often hang out on casinos.

Quite tellingly, BM and CP are spared our clearly superficial—with MA throwing the dice for high-rolling CP.

Finicky and demanding

Senator TV: Host 1 is just as meticulous as Leonardo, TV: Host 2.

TV1 arrived at a pictorial area undergoing. The staff barely recognized TV1 who promptly ignored everyone in the studio.

When it was time for makeup, TV1 was finicky and demanding. Maybe it was because TV1's skin was dry as a parched

JENNIFER Lopez' ...

TV1 kept nagging the stylist about the hair do, too.

TV1 only lightened up towards the end, but that's because TV1 needed something from the staff: "Can I borrow a hairbrush?"

Too embarrassed to react

TV2, TV1's events-crossing also gave the hairstylist a hard time as a shoot.

TV2 deemed the stylist's cutting.

"I don't want to look like a bald star," TV2 drawled, pointing at a former Sexy Starlet who was clearly within earshot.

The stylist was too embarrassed to react.

Signature gift

Indefatigable Politician AI allegedly gifts his fringes—particularly show biz starlets—with the same expensive gift.

AI's signature present: to the high-end Korean Rohan bag.

Sassy Nymphet allegedly amassed quite a number of the luxury tote's classic.

For services rendered?

Her turn

LOS ANGELES — Welsh actress Catherine Zeta-Jones has cheerfully taken a mental health class to treat her bipolar disorder after helping her husband overcome his ...

Michael Douglas' fight against cancer, her publicist said Wednesday. AFP

Most beautiful

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actress and pop singer Jennifer Lopez, 41, has topped People magazine's annual list of the most beautiful people of 2011, which he announced Friday.

Also on the list were film stars Owen Wilson, Mandy Moore, Eva Longoria and actress-singer Jennifer Hudson.

Among the men on the list were Canada-born film actor Ryan Reynolds and Hollywood hunk Zac Efron. AFP

Foodie

NEW YORK — Actress/singer Gwyneth Paltrow donned an apron and placed butt in a metal dust to...fished 4-foot celebrity tennis like Jay-Z, Jerry Seinfeld, Cameron Diaz and host Alec Baldwin, Martha Stewart and Dubrow's husband, Chris Martin of Coldplay.

The dinner party on Monday was in celebration of Dubrow's new cookbook, "My Father's Daughter." The book is filled with family recipes and past tributes to Dubrow's dad Nemo, who passed away in 2002, the reader him with touching her how to cook while cultivating her love for food. AP

Top of the tabloids

• Ito pala'ng nangyari sa Team'st Willie, mga tweets ni Alice sabay Dubai at Facebook at TwitDet, kaya pinaalis na sabgong samasamahin.]

• Aiza Seguerra kinumpirma ng fans si Willie (Dahil overkill na 'to.)

• Ubaldo, sa love team nila ni Marian: 'Wag na lang! Ikay solo ang!]

• Jake Ejercito pagkatapos ng Joy Melissa Ricks (Ang bilis naman!)

• Shamcey sa mga 'Kapuso Vegan Vibes' (Ako muntik pero di.)

• Angel nandoon sa ng Inauguration ni PNoy (Check!)

• Sheryl Cruz nasaan ang Dahil din ako! (Bitch!Kilowa't)

• Ai Ai gumaganda dyowain si Alper! (Wedding ba credit?)

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Echo . . .

Front page 31

him the finger, although he claimed everyone snapped the catcalls "when they heard my voice."

But he proudly added that he got a warm reception the most time he sang for a similar crowd. "I felt lucky when I got invited," he said, recalling that he threw one of his favorite yaya to the front-row audience. "It was fun. Nothing could match the experience."

Although the verdict is still out, he believes this is his time "to shine as a musician."

He has written two songs for the ABS-CBN teleserye "Pwedeh" and "Dahil May Isang Ikaw," even if those songs were not used for some reason.

But he was successful to another project—writing and singing "Hanubos Mga Mig Chan," the theme to the teleserye "Cesar/Basic."

Eye-opener

Mr. Travel to Malaysia was an eye-opener, he said. "How I wish the Philippines can also answer enough budget for films and enact to stop piracy."

He cited Malaysia as an example, pointing out that it offers loans and hosts by producers and directors who wanted to make good films.

"The Philippines can compete on a global scale. The wealth a stage and it's high time that we shine," he said.

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 HALL PASS 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

2 BIG MOMMAS 1:25, 4:30, 7:10, 10:15

3 GNOMEO & JULIET 3D 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45

4 RIO 12:35, 2:35, 5:15, 7:15, 10:25

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Echo wants to shine as a singer

By Jaime Agandila

THERE are three things that personify Anthony Rendon: dance, music, acting and dancing.

While he's still working hard to be recognized as a legitimate singer, his acting career has hit a new high.

Echo leads the cast of "Rakyat: I Love You," an independent Bollywood film about the "I love You" composer who was originated in the Philippines and caused extensive damage worldwide, including the computer systems in the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and British Parliament.

Set in the 1990s, Victor, a young man who gets entangled in the criminal investigation of the same while searching for the woman he loves.

Directed by Petrick de la Torre, the film also stars real-life rap-of "The Black Eyed Peas, Gary Valenciano, Tirso Cruz III, Joel Torre, Bernie Felgar ("Step Up 2"), Jhon Lani Mallari, Elmo the TV series Lito Lapid and Chuck The New Adventures of Superman") Bayle Shaun ("Hush") and Kimiko Rosse ("Time Model").

It's one of the biggest roles he's ever played, the 33-years-old Echo told the beginner at the press launch of Ariel Rodgel, the film director he's currently embracing. "I auditioned for it," he said. "My heart was leaping when I heard the panel. The audition process in English and I had several and memorizer something less."

A phone call asking for his waistline, shoe and shirt size confirmed that he got the role. He was so happy that he jumped for joy while reading it the book.

ECHO is a new high.

He recalled getting nervous while throwing lines with Apl.de.ap, who plays a rascist driver.

While shooting the film, Echo said he scooted on irritation to join the Grocery Actors Guild, an actors can be cost control. But he has yet to accept it, since doing so will prohibit him from securing job offers in Manila.

This June, he will take a crash course in filmmaking at the New York Film Academy to develop his skills in directing and producing.

He has directed local music videos and cosmopolitized one of his concerts, dubbed "And I Love Her," which revolved around six emotionally challenged pop-rock stars.

Focus on music

For some time, acting took a back seat when he went headlong into the music circle.

It was paradoxical. People didn't understand and I had to prove myself. The producers said my follower got hurt. They thought I was turning my back on him," Echo said.

He actually started down a winding road of commercial endorsements, a couple of music operas and magazine ads before finding success.

In October 2006, he went to Malaysia for the release of "Lucas Fit," his debut 14-track album he had no idea such he'd land, dating.

The album hit the charts in Malaysia. The same started, musicians said he found it difficult to sustain what he had achieved for him since as a teen. Fave gone, albums, 2006's "Sunrise" and 2009's "Change."

He's not exactly restless. His mother and grandmother used to sing for at a radio station in Bicol. A brother is likewise a singer and a child DJ.

In 2007, he performed in a successful concert at the Music Museum.

Echo admitted that the demands of a show biz career can be physically draining.

He has surgery. If he's on right schedules, lack of sleep, singing on late nights and going out of town to go malling, his favorite sport.

Different kind of headache

But there's a specific torture which gave him a different kind of headache. Getting booked at a rock concert.

"It was difficult," he recounted, "I performed with mohawk or Ohpitock and Irokuois."

The crowd booed and gave

more p.

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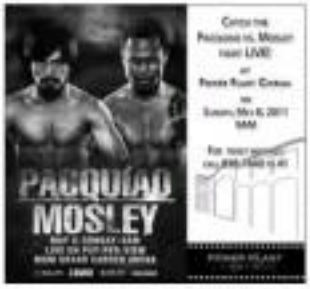

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Copy of the full description and selection criteria are listed under job vacancies at www.canberra.embassy.gov.au/mnla/vacancy.html

Interested parties should submit a written application of no more than two pages, setting out clearly the claims against each selection criteria together with a resume and names of three referees and their contact details. Applications that do not address each selection criteria will not be considered.

All applications should be forwarded on or before 30 April 2011 to e-mail address manila.recruitment@dfat.gov.au. Please include the position you are applying for in your application and expected salary in your e-mail subject header. If you have not been requested to attend an interview within four weeks from the closing date, please assume that your application has not been successful. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

EU TRADE RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT 2

HIRING: CONTRACT OF SERVICE
Position: Information, Communication, and Events Assistant

Qualifications:
1. Bachelor's degree in communication
2. Preferred with at least 2 years experience in written communication, publication and public relations (2-3 years)
3. Knowledgeable on design, publication, audiovisual, multimedia, multilingual and video production

For interested applicants, please submit resume and letter of application addressed to Director Brenda Mendoza, 7th St. Ingress Mendoza Building, Alabang-Zapote Road, Brgy. Pamplona, Las Piñas City, 1740 Metro Manila, Philippines or fax to 874-2700 or 874-2708 or e-mail to hr@ctc.com.ph

Deadline of submission is on or before 26 April 2011

PROJ. AREA MANAGER/ENGR/ARCH

With exp. on DOE/PLA or similar documentation/drawings
Send resume to: ... / ...
35 SP Complex, KM Pres. Jct. Tandang Sora, Caloocan City Tel. # 294-5456

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- Rotating Equipment Technician
- Instrument Technician
- PCS Technician
- Electrical Technician
- Partnership Facilitator
- Electrical Engineer
- Instrument Engineer
- Contracts Expert
- OSBL Leader operator/SA
- DCS Engineers
- OSBL Leader operator/TO
- Contract Engineer
- Cost Engineers
- E & I Supervisor
- Instrument Engineer
- Operators
- Instrument Supervisor
- Electrical Supervisor
- Safety Trainer
- Instrument Technician Trainer
- Mechanical Trainer
- Fabricator Trainer
- Pipefitter Trainer
- Operator Trainer
- Electrical Trainer
- Welding Trainer
- Instrument Supervisor

General Qualification and Requirements:

- Male 20-30 years old
- Computer Literate
- Good English communication skill
- ARAMCO experience is a plus!
- Work Permit at least 5 years work experience in Power Plant, Refinery, Oil and Gas Industry

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HRPC Training and Accreditation Assistance Centre, Inc. is pleased to announce the successful graduation of the 'HRD Caregiver' Program for Home and Personal Service and the 'Kitchen Helper' Training Program conducted at the Training Center.

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Rosalie Castillo	Rowena Pulido	Rowena Villaluz
Rowena Castillo	Rowena Pulido	
Rosalie Castillo	Rowena Pulido	
Rosalie Castillo	Rowena Pulido	
Rosalie

WORKING PEOPLE

Editor Jason Francis M. Balboa

Managing diversity

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES IN a global world is managing diversity. Diversity in perspective and time zones. On a deeper level diversity in language, cultures, even beliefs, faith and religions.

Bridging diversity

In the corporate world we use technology to bridge diversity and differences. Take for instance how we email and skype conversation can bridge distances in cyber time. A field growing in popularity today is training programs for cross cultural management, gender sensitivity. Being ethics based on the value on strong respect for the individual.

One interesting and equally important field is inter religious dialogue. As one author so marked on emphasizing the value of inter religious conversations, "How many wars have been fought in the name of religion? And the opposite is true, how many good deeds would

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Dita Dada Pasargyo

have not occurred by the faithful from understanding each other's religion?

Interreligious dialogue

One global exponent of Interreligious Dialogue is the Roothaan Movement, found in 170 countries, whose charism is to make happen the words of Jesus, "Father that all may be one".

Recently I had the grace to attend the Pax Asiatic conference held in Tagaytay City sponsored by the Focolare Movement's Schools for Oriental Religions on the theme of "love of neighbor in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity". The over 150 participants coming from all over Asia ended the three day workshop feeling truly blessed.

The main element of the dialogue was placed in the context of the universal plan of love of God who embraces all mankind. It was a dialogue of love, as Chiara Lubich says, as "a concrete testimony of the love taken directly from the gospel, to which everybody is open, as if it were the answer to the natural vocation to love of every human being".

Powerful lessons

The seminar gave me a number of powerful lessons.

One is the appreciation and admiration for the ideas and practices of the other great religions and the deep conviction to live Christianity even better.

Two, are the similarities in thought and beliefs that can unite us, for example among Buddhism, there is a concept on love of neighbor that is the Buddha's compassion. It is the spirit of friendship that gives pleasure or joy to others. It also means taking away suffering and giving happiness.

In Hinduism, the belief is all of us are children of God. So we are related to God and all other living beings because all of us are created by God. If we love God, we love His creations. This is how love of neighbor is understood.

In Islam, love of neighbor is understood in the context of the need for people to understand one another. Neighbors are the immediate people near us other than ourselves and our families. Traditionally, it would mean forty houses around the circumference of the family residence.

In Christianity, love of neighbor is contained in the greatest commandment, to love God, with your whole heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. It is a love that leads to mutuality of love.

There, is the realization of

the immense love of God for humankind. Through the incarnation, He planted the seeds of truth in major faiths and religions that have guided mankind through the centuries. When people live their faiths with sincerity and authenticity that they journey towards discovering the source of all truth.

All part of humanity

At work with people, discovering how we are similar and diverse allows us to grow in respect for the love of God who created unique designs for all of us. At the same time all of us are part of humanity.

If we Filipinos want to leverage the opportunities that we have century premises, we cannot help but learn how to appreciate the fields of people in our neighboring countries, in every training or consulting engagement, we can engage in respectful dialogue confident that as we live our faith, we can learn other people's faith as well.

ITike Dada Pasargyo is the President and CEO of inciSit Enterprise Development Consulting, an innovative provider of Organizational Development and Training solutions in the ASEAN region. These solutions include strategy development and execution, managing change, breakthroughs, brand on. At the same time all of us are part of humanity.

If we Filipinos want to leverage the opportunities that we have century premises, we cannot help but learn how to appreciate the fields of people in our neighboring countries, in every training or consulting engagement, we can engage in respectful dialogue confident that as we live our faith, we can learn other people's faith as well.

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Labor urged to go slow on wage hike clamor

EMPLOYERS called on organized labor to go slow on the clamor for a big increase in wage adjustments and pro-nouncements by the regional tripartite wages and productivity boards (RTWPB) to the National Capital Region (NCR) on the existence of a "wage-varying conditions."

DOLE president Rolando D. Lucero said that time may not be a prudent move considering that fuel prices remain volatile in the world market. With such situation, he said, a wage adjustment would trigger upside wage pressures and create an upsurge in consumer prices.

In such eventuality, Lucero added that wages and inflation would chase each other with workers at the losing end.

Lucero argued that capacity of the average micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have been benefitted by wage hikes, especially those in the so-called underground economy or informal sectors. In as much as roughly 2.2 million in the formal sector are the ones who have take home pay increases every time wage orders are adjusted. The rest, such as the self-employed or own-account workers, family-based workers and casual workers in the informal sector benefit from mandated wage increases.

The DOLE official said the feasible options to encourage collective bargaining at the enterprise or workers can freely bargain with employers are to strengthen the voluntary mechanism through workers without resorting enterprise-level talks.

Lucero breathed that employers representatives in the RTWPB NCR have earlier questioned to issuance of the sudden decision to change the criteria in determining whether or not a "wage-varying condition" exists to pave the way for a pay hike earlier than the regular one-year period since the last wage order was promulgated.

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Responsibilities: Provide excellent customer service while attending to sales enquiries. Establish rapport and maintain good relationship with clients and customers. Expand market share and increase customer base to achieve sales target. Provide pre-sales preparation: sales negotiations, and after sales service.

Qualifications: Must be a Licensed Mechanical Engineer with good academic background with at least two (2) years experience in the field of Industrial Refrigeration. Ideal candidates must be well motivated with a proven track record in project monitoring and industrial equipment sales. Comfortable in the dynamic environment of a technical organization with a rapidly expanding customer base. Must possess strong presentation skills and be able to communicate professionally in written responses to emails, RFI's and other submitting reports. Organized and analytical, able to dominate sales objectives through initiative and adaptive approaches. Must be prepared for extensive travel. Male, 25 to 32 years old.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

Responsibilities: Maintain and modify existing control systems. Manage control systems design operations preferably Industrial Refrigeration, developing estimates, working collaboratively with Mechanical Design Engineers, Project Engineers, Purchaser and other members of staff. Coordinates with clients, suppliers, contractors, and external authorities, project management within cost and time, troubleshooting and problem solving. Providing advice and consultancy support.

Qualifications: Must be a Licensed Electrical Engineer with good academic background with at least two (2) years experience in the field of Electrical Engineering and installation works. Master in engineering software programs such as CAD & MS Project is likewise a must. Must be honest, motivated, independent minded, good in working individually, with good interpersonal, planning, and organizational skills. Male, 25 to 32 years old.

Please submit complete resume and salary history with the qualified indicated. Only those that will be called for interview. Interested applicants may submit their resume to: hrd.gea@yahoo.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

"ITALIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (AKTACDSP)"

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) is pleased to announce the following consultant positions to be procured for the Project Management Unit (PMU) to be based in Mindanao. The project will cover Regions IX, XI and ARMM for the DAR-AKTACDSP which will be implemented starting CY 2011.

POSITIONS	SCOPE OF WORK AND ASSIGNMENT	QUALIFICATIONS
Chief Technical Advisor	Assists the National Project Manager in the overall management & supervision of the project implementation (full-time, 36 man-months)	MS/MA on Business Administration/ Public Administration/Development Management 5 yrs experience on Project Manager
Engineer	Facilitates planning, design & implementation of rural infrastructures projects, full-time, 36 man-months	Licensed Civil or Agricultural Engineer. MS/MA an advantage 3 yrs experience in rural infrastructure projects
Microfinance Specialist	Provide technical services in the design & implementation of the microfinance component of the project; evaluate microfinance enterprise proposals; full-time, 11 man-months	BS in Finance/Accounting/ Economics/Law; with 5 yrs experience in managing microcredit
Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	Design & implement appropriate project Monitoring and Evaluation systems; full time, 36 man-months	BS in regional planning & related fields; MS/MA an advantage 5 yrs work experience in related fields
Organizational Capacity Bldg. Specialist	Provide technical services in capacity bldg. including & organizational building, 30 man-mos	BS in Community Development and related fields; 3 yrs experience in community organizing & community management
Agro-Market Expert	Provide technical assistance in market support identification and linkages; 12 man-mos.	BS in Commerce/Marketing; 5 yrs experience in Small and Medium Enterprise Marketing
Agriculturist	Provide technical assistance in promotion, development & implementation of agriculture-based enterprises and livelihood; full-time, 36 man- months	BS Agriculture/Agro-allied MS/MA in Economics/ Agri-Business, MS/MA an advantage; 5 yrs relevant work experience
Administrative Officer	Provide administrative support to the National Project Manager; full-time, 30 man-mos	BS in Commerce/Business Administration; 3 yrs relevant work experience

Applications should be submitted to:
THE UNDERSIGNED BY
EBD and PIC for FNPs
Department of Agrarian Reform, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: (incomplete applications will not be entertained)
Applications should include (strictly copies of the following):

1. Signed letter stating clearly the position applied for and expressing willingness to be assigned in Mindanao
2. Accomplished Personal Data Sheet (PDS) with attachment detailing the duties and responsibilities and accomplishments for each position held;
3. Recent 2x2 photograph (Attached to PDS)
4. Endorsement(s) from former employer(s).

Details on the Project and the Terms of Reference (TORs) for these positions may be obtained from the DAR website: dar.gov.ph and DAR FNPhC website: fnpmbo.org.ph. For further inquiries, contact tel. nos. 414-2810 or 426-1234 loc. 416.

Applications should be complete and received on or before 30 April 2011.

(Sgd.) ABEL BONIFACIO N. BARRANTES
Vice-Chairman – Bids and Awards Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

BROKERAGE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
1. Graduate of BS in Customs Administration
2. Female, 21 to 25 years old, preferably single
3. Computer Literate (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
4. Must have good communication skills
5. Must have pleasing personality
6. Must have good appearance
7. Must have some knowledge in customs procedures

CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifications:
1. Graduate of BS in Customs Administration
2. Male, 21 to 25 years old
3. Must have good communication skills
4. Must have pleasing personality and appearance
5. Must have good appearance
6. Must have some knowledge in customs procedures

Apply in person at:
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Rm. 210 G/F Ortiz Building, 1888 Timog Avenue cor. Scout Tuazon St., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 372-2222 to 25 loc. 210

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ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
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Sucat, Parañaque City
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TEN (10) MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
TWO (2) ACCOUNTING STAFF
ONE (1) LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
ONE (1) O.R. PHARMACIST
ONE (1) PHARMACIST
ONE (1) SOCIAL WORKER

Please bring the following: Resume, 2x2 Colored Picture, NBI/Police Clearance, PRC ID, Board Rating, Board Certificate, Transcript of Records, and Diploma. Kindly submit your requirements together with the original documents to Human Resource Department, Ground Floor, Main Building. For inquiries, you may contact 711-4141 loc. 813 and look for Mr. Richard Cuartieros.

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NEW SALONPAS PAIN RELIEF PATCH LAUNCHED

Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co. Inc launched in numerous and more effective pain relief patch product, the New Salonpas Pain Relief Patch, in Makati City recently to pharmacists and its distribution partners. The "New Salonpas Pain Relief Patch" is the only over-the-counter (OTC) topical analgesic patch approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the US with clinically-proven efficacy. The launch was also marketed by grand invitation and an exciting product reveal, proof that Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co. Inc. truly values Filipino consumers by offering a more effective product. Shown from left are: Edwards Mauricio, VP for Sales and Marketing, Gold Bros. Philippines Inc; James Santos, director for Southeast Asia of Gate Bros. Philippines, Inc.; Takehiko Noda, director and executive officer, and head of international division of Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co. Inc; and Katsuhiro Sato, department general manager of sales at the international division of Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co., Inc.

PHBS SUPPORTS VICE PRESIDENT BINAY IN PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAM

Paseo Habal Realtors Board (PHBS) engage in the Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chairman Jejomar Binay's Public Private Sector Program in the Housing Sector. Seated from left are Pat Bernabe, PHBS interactive president Lawyer Nelson Angeles, HUDCC Secretary General Celia Alba, Ms. PHBS Lesley Geronimo, Elena Jara; Standing from left are: Carlos Pascual and PHBS chief presidential advisor Feliciano Crespo.

PHILAM LIFE JOINED JOBMARKET CAREER EXPO
Mr. Trevor Ball, president and CEO of Philam Life with (from Francis Reboredo, AVP, Inspire Clustfird Ali, Belinda Gaad, Clustfird Ali branch manager and Philam Life sales managers at the Job Market Career Expo at Glorietta Activity Center on April 13-15, 2011.

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Magnus Eventus warns the jobseeker regarding modus operandi at the job fair

THE 3RD MEI MEGA JOB FAIR @ Starmall EDSA-Shaw on April 1 and 2 was another record breaking success for Magnus Eventus Inc. More than 5,400 jobseekers applied at the event and all the 35 exhibitors are satisfied with the turn-out of the event.

Magnus Eventus has done to put employers and would- be employees in direct contact with each others to explore mutually beneficial relationships. MEI's goal is not just to bring in quantity but also quality applicants who will qualify with what the companies are looking for. MEI is pleased to announce applicants with employers who are legal companies and who will comply with the requirements of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Though Magnus Eventus Inc., do receive reports that there are employers who are victimized by people who are claiming to be representatives of Magnus Eventus Inc. and they are misinformed as illegal recruiters since they do not comply with the DOLE requirements.

This kind of problem is very rampant in every job fair, that is why Magnus Eventus Inc. is vigilant to get rid of this type of people. During the 3-day event at Starmall EDSA-Shaw Magnus Eventus Inc. caught 5 people posing as Eventus employees, with no company names they are representing. Evidently they gave flyers to the Organizer and to the BOLE representative. They were brought to the mall security office for identification and to Brgy. Wack-wack and filed his/her complaints as warning to these people. These people were released after getting the important information that the company they are representing.

Their modus operandi is to approach applicants at the job fair and entice them to join their company. One way to recognize these people is they are giving small flyers without the name of their company. They are not registered with private exhibitors. They will entice applicant to join by charging out money from P500 to P7,000 for membership and buy the package kit or blank cards and the only way to sure is to get more referrals that will do the same modus operandi.

Magnus Eventus Inc has an agreement with the Department of Labor and Employment that no fees shall be collected from the applicants. Magnus Eventus Inc. believes that a Job fair is a reason to find job, where applicants get hired and earn money and not the other way around. We hopes that jobseekers be wise enough to choose the company that is legit and that will help them prosper.

MEI will be vigilant with their job fairs and they are working all those company with this scam that they will stay vigilant with all their succeeding events. To know more about the latest Magnus Eventus Inc. job fair please visit www.magnuseventus.com

For information, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

A reputable PR agency is in need of applicants for the position of:
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER
Responsibilities:
- Provides assistance to the Media Relations Manager
- Represents PR agency on media-related activities (media events)
- Conduct other media liaison and coordinator efforts as directed by the Media Relations Manager
- Prepares PR reports for Clients and other administrative paper work
- Should be able to understand and appreciate wine items in the media

Requirements:
- Preferable Male
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Marketing/ Management, Communications and Media
- Minimum of Two (2) years work experience in related field
- Highly creative, pleasing personality, self-driven, and with good marketing skills
- Has strong average communication skills, both oral and written
- Must be computer literate
- Detail- and results-oriented, organized, with minimum supervision required
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Please send your resume through:
Email : info@emcpublic.ph.com
Address : Unit 1606 Keffler Corporate Center, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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VXI Global celebrates its GR8 year

APRIL 16, MARKED THE 8TH anniversary of the call center operations of VXI Global Holdings, B.V. (Philippines). From its humble beginnings as a 56-person outbound sales operations, VXI Global now has close to 6,000 seats across its three locations within Metro Manila. With its local headquarters in Makati City, VXI Global has continued to live up to its mission – to be the best contact center and information technology company in the world, every single day.

Founded in 2003, VXI Global started with a single program in support of a global US-based telecommunication company. After eight years, VXI Global continues to maintain a strong partnership with this same client and has grown its local portfolio to nine clients, providing multiple lines of business including inbound and outbound sales, customer service, collection and technical support. VXI Global's client base now extends to a wide range of industries including telecommunications, financial services, satellite television, and online search advertising to name a few. VXI Global's continued success in the Philippines can be attributed to a century of history with its ownership consistency, partnership approach and willingness to listen to create value as some of the company's key differentiators.

In line with VXI Global's vision to provide its environment where people can realize their potential by being their best, the company continues to grow with the support of its employees. With over 90 percent of the VXI leadership and support roles having been promoted from within, VXI Global strives to offer promising careers for its employees while providing world-class support to its clients. Given VXI Global's success in the Philippines over the past eight years, the company continues to explore growth opportunities in the country as part of its strategic initiatives.

VXI Global Solutions, Inc. (www.vxi.com) is the incorporated back-end holder of VXI Global Holdings B.V. (Philippines). VXI is a leading provider of back-end process and information technology outsourcing (that is) this comprehensive services to its clients. The company specializes in software development, application maintenance, quality assurance testing, information technology outsourcing, multilingual and BPO services. — Shelly Sanders

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PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

OCT No.	Location	Type	Land Area (sq.m. /block or lot)	Intended Minimum Bid (Php)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
00 Titles	Located within Barangay Homers 1 and 2, Brgy. San Juan, Municipality of San Miguel, Province of Bulacan. Barangay Homers 1 is located on the north side of Mapayapas Road, diagonally across Barangay Homers 2. The site is approximately 200 meters south from San Juan Brgy. Chapel, some 400 meters southeast from the corner of Municipal and Mapayapas Roads in the vicinity of San Miguel Municipal Hall.	Residential Land	various		Apr. 26, 2011 10:00 a.m.	In front of the Office of the Ex-Officio Sheriff of Bulacan, located at the back of the Barangay ng Kalusugan Provincial Capitol Compound, Malolos City, Bulacan

Along Mapayapas Road :

Subdivision Gate :

Phase 1 :

Main Road going to Phase 2 :

Phase 2 :

Phase 3B :

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 631-7299 or send an email to foreclosuregroup@ahsgroup.com

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SMDC CONDO

LOT

ARAYAT PUBLICATION

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OCT No.	Location	Type	Land Area (sq.m. /block or lot)	Intended Minimum Bid (Php)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
T-123039	Located on the northwest side of Juan Dela Cruz Street (extension), within District of Tork, Davao City. The site is adjacent of the PLDT Office, just across Rolla Canteen Davao City High School.	Vacant Residential Land	174	1,011,000	May 05, 2011 10:00 a.m.	Main entrance of the Hall of Justice, Ecoland, Davao City
T-62211	Located on the northwest side of Guardian Street, within Brgy. Dalisay, District of Tork, Davao City. The site is about 50 meters northeast from the corner of Guardian and Indayan Streets, 250 meters northwest from Tork Fish Port, 900 meters southeast from Tork District Hall on about 15 km. from Davao City Hall.	Vacant Residential Land	900	500,000		

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 631-7277 or send an email to foreclosuregroup@ahsgroup.com

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   - Alabang Zapote Rd. cor. Las Piñas
   - Molino Rd., Dasmariñas, Cavite
3. COMMERCIAL BLDG.
   - 20 Bacon Boulevard, Pasay City
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 2011 INTEGRATED CHARTER (Tenders of NFA Cebu Stocks) and INSURANCE (Cebu-Leyte Route)

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its Corporate Budget for 2011 intends to apply the sum of Fifty Million Pesos Only (₱50,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to participate in the Procurement of 2011 Integrated Charter (Transfer of NFA Stocks) and Insurance (Cebu-Leyte Route). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected without opening.

The National Food Authority, Region VII, Cebu City now invites bids for an interested licensed operators of vessels (another vessel or chartered through Bareboat/Time/Voyage Charter) to apply for eligibility and to bid under this Contract for Voyage Charter and Insurance for the shipment of stocks from Cebu City to various destinations as indicated below:

VOLUME SCHEDULE FOR CEBU DISTRICT

Destination / Vessel	Maximum Quantity (in Metric Ton)	Freight Rate (per Bag)	Total Freight (per Metric Ton)	Total Insurance (plus insurance premium of 0.08% ad valorem)	Total ABC per Destination (Freight + Insurance)	Bidding Fee
LOT NO. 1	MAIN LEG					
Ormoc City	50, 75	10.00	1,000.00	80.00	1,080.00	
Tacloban City	75,000	10.00	750,000.00	60,000.00	810,000.00	
SUB-TOTAL	75,000		1,750,000.00	140,000.00	1,890,000.00	
	75,000	10.00	750,000.00	60,000.00	810,000.00	
Ormoc City	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00	
Tacloban City	75,000	10.00	750,000.00	60,000.00	810,000.00	
Cebu City	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00	
SUB-TOTAL	75,000		750,000.00	60,000.00	810,000.00	
	75,000		750,000.00	60,000.00	810,000.00	
LOT NO. 2	MAIN LEG					
M. Cebu	Bantayan	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Hilongos	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Ormoc	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
M. Cebu	Bantayan	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Hilongos	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
M. Cebu	Ormoc	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Tacloban	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
M. Cebu	Bantayan	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Hilongos	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Ormoc	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Tacloban	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
C. Davao	Bantayan	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Hilongos	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Ormoc	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
	Tacloban	50,000	10.00	500,000.00	40,000.00	540,000.00
SUB-TOTAL		1,000,000		10,000,000.00	800,000.00	10,800,000.00
TOTAL		2,075,000		19,500,000.00	1,560,000.00	21,060,000.00

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA Alambic, Cebu City during April 17, 2011 to May 02, 2011 from 8:00AM - 5:00PM and May 03, 2011 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated in the table above. The non-refundable fee shall be paid in cash to the Manager's Cashier in Bank issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu payable to NFA.

Bidders may also opt to download the Bidding Documents from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity. However, Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a **Pre-Bidding Conference** on **April 26, 2011 at 2:00 PM** at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr. Alambic Cebu City which is open to all interested parties. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on **May 10, 2011 not later than 2:00 PM**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to 2% of the ABC in the form of any of the following forms and in accordance thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC (₱ 50,000)
Cash or Cashier's/Manager's Check issued by a commercial bank	Two Percent (2%)
Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a prominent commercial bank; duly confirmed or authenticated by a commercial bank if issued by a foreign bank	Two Percent (2%)
Surety Bond callable on demand issued by surety or insurance company duly certified by the insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Five Percent (5%)
Any combination of the foregoing	proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security

Bid opening shall be on **May 10, 2011 at 2:00 PM** at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr. Alambic Cebu City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders and/or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bids most advantageous to the government or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process and open all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Alambic, Cebu City
Tel/fax No. (032) 232-1636/Fax (032) 254-4080
e-mail address: nfa_region7@yahoo.com
website: www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PAUL B. CHONG
Regional Manager

BID – April 17, 2011

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES | METROBANK | ASIATRUST | SECURITY BANK

INVITATION TO BID

A consortium of banks composed of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Metrobank Bank and Trust Company, Asiatrust Bank and RCBC Savings Bank (collectively, the "Banks") has acquired certain NPL and equipment (the "Assets") from Philippine Airlines, Inc. ("PAL") (the "Transaction"). The Banks are now offering the Assets for sale.

Seller invites interested parties to bid for the Property on AS-IS and AS-IS-WHERE-IS basis.

Description of the Property for sale, as well as its **MINIMUM BID PRICE**, is as follows:

Description	Minimum Price
Three (3) lots with total area of 261,026 sq.m. located in Brgy. San Agustin, Concepcion, Tarlac, covered by the following TCTs:	P 631,104,000.00
TCT No. 103618* — 13,000 sq.m. TCT No. 103619* — 144,702 sq.m. TCT No. 103620* — 13,000 sq.m. TCT No. 103621* — 13,000 sq.m. TCT No. 103622* — 13,000 sq.m. TCT No. 103623* — 64,324 sq.m.	

Note: 1. All Philippines Piston Corporation ("APPRC") owns the improvements on the said properties at no cost, pursuant to a Contract to Sell executed between it and PAL. However, APPRC has agreed in principle to grant Purchaser/s' Right of Way to APPRC subject to mutually acceptable terms and conditions. The parties shall execute their respective agreements regarding the Right of Way of the Property. Further, APPRC has expressed its willingness to negotiate for the sale of its properties before allowing Seller/s/Purchaser/s to take possession of the Property.

Special bids together with the 10% bid bond shall be submitted to Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company – Trust Banking Group, Attn: Ms. Adriana Chan, Asst. Vice President, 8th Floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, on or before **May 4, 2011**. The bid bond shall be in the form of **Manager's Check** issued by any commercial bank payable to Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company, Trust Banking Group.

In case of **CLOSING FOLLOWING TOP-SIDE** (defined as closing the second highest bid which is not more than 20% of the highest bid), the submitter of the second highest bid shall be informed accordingly and given the opportunity to match the highest bid. The bidder who matches or improves the highest bid may participate. The bid bond in the form of **Manager's Check** shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders.

The Bid Documents will be available at the Administrator's office (c/o Anthony Velo) in Lyric Hills, Clarkfield, April 14, 2011.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on April 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company – Trust Banking Group (The "Administrator") with offices at the 18th Floor, 6750 Ayala International Building, 6810 Ayala Avenue corner Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Prospective bidders are cautioned to inspect the Property as well as to investigate status of title before submitting their bids. To view other Property/properties on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidder shall also undertake all the necessary and/or required banking assistance from the Seller. The award of bids of the winning bidder shall be subject to Seller's approval.

For more information, please visit or call the Administrator at telephone no. 687-5800 loc 887-5947.

The Seller reserves the right to reject any or all offers, or waive any formality therein, accept such offer as may be considered most advantageous to the Seller, or call off the competitive bid offers and call for a new mode of disposition under amended rules. The decision of the Seller is final.

THE EVALUATION & AWARDS COMMITTEE – REVISED
(T&C – METROLOG)

(PHR-April 17, 2011)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID FOR

2011 INTEGRATED CHARTER HANDLING & TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION 7

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its Corporate Budget for 2011 intends to apply the sum of Twenty Seven Million Forty Three Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (₱27,043,600.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to participate the contract for the 2011 Integrated Charter Handling & Trucking Services for NFA Region 7. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites bids from eligible bidders for Integrated Charter Handling & Trucking Services for NFA Region VII, Delivery of the GOODS is a maximum upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2011 or until the purchase orders shall have been completely delivered, whichever comes first. Payment for completed work shall be based on the actual accomplished services rendered. Progress handling and trucking services complete the following:

Lot No.	Province/Route	Maximum Trucking Capacity (in Kilogram)	Maximum Handling Capacity (in Bag)	ABC (Pesos)	Bidding Docs. Fee
1	Bohol	500,000	1,000,000	₱ 10,816,440.00	₱1,000.00
	Tagbilaran, Panglao, Talibon (Carriage Capacity)	250,000	1,000,000		
	Ubay (Trucking Only)	250,000	500,000		
2	Cebu	750,000	500,000	₱ 10,816,440.00	₱1,000.00
	Cty. Ka Pisot sa Mandaue	500,000	500,000		
	Pisot Point to Mandaue	500,000	500,000		
3	Negros Occidental	500,000	1,000,000	₱ 5,410,560.00	₱1,000.00
	Dumaguete Port to Bindoy	250,000	1,000,000		
	Dumaguete to Bindoy/Jct.	250,000	500,000		
	Bindoy				
	Lakawon Port to Bindoy/Jct.	75,000	250,000		
	TOTAL	2,125,000	4,000,000	₱ 27,043,600.00	

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part 2 (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". **Bidders must have at least three (3) years experience in haul system (for bigger cargo handling/forwarding permits)** and must have at least a Grade "C" Contractor's Compliance and registration with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) up to the amount which is the subject of this contract or its equivalent as certified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and must be validly existing as a corporation, partnership or cooperative qualifying to conduct business. Bidders must also have a Licensed Freight Contract Forwarders and accompanied within the twelve months (which includes 2009) under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Customs and complied by the contractor as set out as defined in the experience section. The value of which must be at least 50% of the ABC. **Likewise, all completed contracts with the government or private institutions within the twelve month period between 2008 up to the submission and opening of bids.**

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA Alambic, Cebu City during April 17, 2011 from 8:00AM - 5:00PM and May 03, 2011 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated in the table above. The non-refundable fee shall be paid in cash to the Manager's Cashier's Check issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu payable to NFA.

Interested parties may view or download the Bidding Documents, free of charge, from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity. However, Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference on April 27, 2011@ 10:00 AM at NFA Training Center 3rd Flr. Alambic Cebu City is of interested bidders**. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on May 10, 2011 not later than 2:00 PM. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to 2% of the ABC in the form of any of the following forms and in accordance thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC (₱ 27,043,600.00)
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check/Bank Draft/ Guarantee performed by Universal or Commercial bank/ Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by Universal or Commercial bank	Two Percent (2%)
Surety Bond callable "Callable on Demand" issued by surety or insurance company duly certified by the insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Five Percent (5%)
Any combination of the foregoing	proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security

Bid opening will be on MAY 10, 2011 @ 10:00 AM at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr. Alambic Cebu City. Bids will not be opened in the presence of the Bidders and or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bids most advantageous to the government or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process and open all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PAUL B. CHONG
Alambic, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-1636
Email address: nfa_r7@yahoo.com.ph

(Sgd.) PAUL B. CHONG
Regional Manager

(PHR-April 17, 2011)

DOUBLE YOUR COLLECTION EFFICIENCY

It Is Time To Improve Your Collection and Cash Flow
May 3, 2011 • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm • RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave.

Session 1
Strengthening Your Collection Focus and Processes (8:00am - 12:00nn)
A profit-generating workshop that maximizes collection efficiency, the development of sound corporate process and collection effectiveness.
- The levels and kinds of risks in extending credit
- Objectives of an efficient credit administration system
- Qualities and responsibilities of a credit / collection personnel
- Objectives of a collection management system
- Developing a responsive collection program
- Steps and stages of receivable and collection

Session 2
Collection Strategies and Tactics (1:00pm - 5:00pm)
An advanced workshop which directly tells the strategies and tactics proven to Asian collectors. Learn and practice these – especially in today's challenge.
- Workouts and repayment schemes
- Post Dues and bad debts types behaviors : Different strokes per behavior
- Types of debtors and their characteristics
- Payment practices of debtors : Issues / factors of non-payment
- Why certain collection practices does not work
- Measuring the results of your collection efforts

Speaker: RICKY DE VERA

SEMINAR INVESTMENT (inclusive of seminar kit, certificate and snacks)
Early Bird Rate (until April 8) — Regular Rate — Group Rate

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New Pag-IBIG home loan rules up at OSHDP meet, Metro Club on April 26

UPDATES ON NEW housing loan policies and clarifications of benefits for tending to Pag-IBIG members is on 2011 topics at the business meeting of the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP) set on April 26, 1:30 p.m.- 6 p.m. at the Metropolitan Club, Dalvella corner Amapola Sts., Makati City (across Rockwell Plaza).

Engineer Jefferson Bongat – OSHDP national president, announced that the meeting's guest of honor and speaker is Lawyer Darlene Marie B. Berberabe, presidential chief executive officer of Pag-IBIG Home Development Mutual Fund, more popularly known as Pag-IBIG fund.

OSHDP members who are primarily builders of socialized housing units, would be able to clarify with Atty. Berberabe the new loan conditions and requirements imposed on subdivision developers, who are accredited on the Pag-IBIG Home financing Program, preferably the safe source of funds at present for housing loans, Bongat said.

"The thrust to make clean and optimize the participation of low income housing projects now in the Pag-IBIG home financing program is OSHDP's support to the attainment of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council's (HUDCC) annual target of enabling the provision of 300,000 housing units a year, considering priority of socialized housing units," Bongat pointed out.

Bongat also envisioned the priority thrust for decent and affordable housing enunciated by Vice Pres. Jejomar C. Binay, concurred HUDCC chairman and the economy on a level playing field for all real estate participants, big or small, to the government shelter program.

For pre-finalists, OSHDP members including new members may coordinate their participation by calling the Secretariat at tels. 912-2367 or 864-8082.

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Wilfred Uytengsu, Sr.

Chairman & Founder
Alaska Milk Corporation

In memory of his 1st Death Anniversary
on
April 18, 2011

The Uytengsu family requests pious readers
to join them in the celebration of the HOLY MASSES
to be offered at the following Churches :

Santuario de San Antonio Parish - Forbes 6:15AM, 7:30AM, 12:15PM, 6:00PM

Sto. Nino de Paz Community – Greenbelt 7:15AM, 12:15PM, 5:45PM, 7:00PM

Don Bosco Church – Makati 6:30AM, 7:30AM, 12:15PM, 6:00PM

San Pedro Apostle Parish – Laguna 6:00AM, 5:15PM

Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral – Cebu City 6:00AM, 7:00AM, 5:00PM

Basilica del Sto. Nino – Cebu City 6:00AM, 7:00AM, 5:30PM

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."
– Joshua 23:14

JOSE "PEPING" TECSON YAN

passed away in the peace of our Lord on April 15, 2011 at the age of 70

His wife **MARIAN**, children and in-laws **CECILLE & TOTO ARRIETA, JOEL & BETH**, grandchildren **ISSA, TANYAN, ANDRE, TINA, ALFONSE & ANTON**, siblings **MANUEL** (†), **PILAR, JESUS** (†), **JOSEFINA & SALVADOR**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ascension Chapel by Arlington, Ascension Columbary, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

ROMEO ALQUINTO FERRER SR.

APRIL 17, 1933 - DEC. 31, 2010
died on the age of 77

Survived by his wife Sylvia & 7 Children:
Roel, Gigi, Renato Jr., Eva, Ruth, Grety,
Rey Lukase, Bry. Tess, Rel Allodite, Beryl Marlon and
11 Grandchildren.

Thank you for all who offered flowers & Prayers....

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
- Copy of Death Certificate
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Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late
Atty. Quintin Conti Mendoza
with pained sorrow in the Glory of our Lord on April 11, 2011 at the age of 84
would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, our flowers and messages of sympathy and who in one another way assisted with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

EDWARD P. RUMOHR

peacefully joined his Creator on April 10, 2011

He is survived by his bereaved wife, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and relatives.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapel, Sandoval Ave., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City up to April 19th. The remains will be transferred to Carmona City Server.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm, for you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. 2
MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT-PHILIPPINES

The Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (the "Philippines" or "GRP") have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in the Philippines (the "Compact"). A key provision set out in the Compact is thirty-three million three hundred ten thousand (US $33,310,000) ("MCC Funding"). Further information regarding the MCC is available on their web site (www.mcc.gov) and information on the Philippines MCA Program is available at the MCA-Philippines web site (www.mca-p.ph).

The Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines (MCA-Philippines), intends to implement the Second Procurement Plan in the following manner:

PROCUREMENTS FOR APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2011
Estimated Value Amount: US $75.2 million dollars

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (not limited to): Vehicles (Pick up and Passenger Vans), Office Furniture and Equipment and Electronic Set-Information System, among other goods.

PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES:

- **Contract firms for consultancy services** related to, but not limited to, Procurement Audit and Capacity Building, Capacity-building on Project Management, Project Management Training, Gender Training of Trainers ToT, FE Roll-Out, Project Management and Construction Supervision, Procurement Consultancy, Computer Assisted Audit Tools and Techniques and Public Awareness and Assistance Campaign, among other services.
- **Contract individuals for consultancy services** related to, but not limited to, Anti-fraud and Anti-Corruption Training, Gender & IT Consultants, IEPS & tax consultants, Design of IEC Material, Project Hyper Office, IEPS Project Consultant, IEPS Project Manager and Communication Consultants, among other services.

PROCUREMENT OF WORKS (not limited to): Renovation of the MCP office space located at the 6th and 9th floor of the Robi Building (Serimal Nimfa, Air conditioning and Furniture), Region 6 Office Repair and Improvement and Office Building Construction, among other works.

Specific procurement notices for processes of consultancy services, goods and works will be advertised as they become available, on the MCA-Philippines website (**www.mca-p.ph**), UN Development Business (UNDB) online (**www.devbusiness.com**) and DGMarket (**www.dgmarket.com**), and the respective local newspapers of the Philippines, as applicable. The procurements processes are open to all bidders from eligible countries as defined in the MCC Program's Procurement Guidelines, which can be downloaded at the MCC website.

When appropriate, bidding documents which contain the description of services, all technical specifications and also further information will be available at MCA-Philippine's website. The procurement processes will be executed in accordance with the MCC Program's Procurement Guidelines, considering equal opportunities of parties.

Interested eligible bidders and consultants who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive a notification, or those requiring additional information, please write to the following email address: **procurementagent@dotr.com** (Subject: General Procurement Notice No. 2).

(###) – April 17 & 24, 2011

CAMARINES SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(CASURECO I)
Pasi Bato, Libmanan, Camarines Sur

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Camarines Sur I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO I) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of (3) transformers separate in six (6) equal payments, as follows (each to cover as follows):

Lot I – 2,500 pcs. Mixed Power Meters, Electronic, Single phase, 240 V, 60 Hz, Alternate Class 1.0, 10/60 A ABC – P12,975,000.00

Lot 2 – 200 pcs. Mixed Power Meters, Electronic, Single phase, CL 100, 240 V, 60 Hz, Form 1 S, Accuracy Class 0.5 ABC – P960,000.00

Bid documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting April 18, 2011 upon submission of a written application to the Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee and upon payment by cash of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on May 3, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Deadline for submission of bids is scheduled for on May 10, 2011 until 10:00 a.m. and Opening of Bids shall be on May 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

The application for eligibility and other bidding documents must be addressed to the address below accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Bidding Documents. Likewise, all contractors related to the bidding procedures will all be conducted at the address below. Bids will be opened at the presence of the bidders (if their authorized representatives).

CASURECO I reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects and accept the offer most advantageous for CASURECO I. It assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bids.

CAMARINES SUR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(CASURECO I)
Bids/Bids Chairman, Operations Div.
Tel No.: (054) 811-4836 / Telefax: (+63-054) 811-4837 / Email: Bids@casureco1.com

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. JOSEPH NICANOR C. MOTOS
Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee

(Sgd.) ELOISA G. CASILE
CEO / General Manager

(###) – April 17, 2011

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **MR. MARK PERRY JOHN LAMSEN** is no longer connected with **BUDDHA BAR HOTEL AND RESTAURANT**, a project of **PICAR DEVELOPMENT INC**. We have ceased honoring all transactions entered by him for and in behalf of the company. PICAR does not sanction all representations made by him not in accord with the company's standards and policies.

PICAR DEVELOPMENT INC.

(###) – April 17, 2011

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The **DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES** invites bids and offers to buy its self-annotated Bank vehicles, various office equipment and assorted scrap materials:

		ITEM DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1	1 unit	Isuzu Carnival Sedan (10 months Bank use with Plate No. SJA-431)	P 750,000.00
2	1 unit	Honda Accord 2.0 Sedan 2006 with Plate No. SFL 918	350,000.00
3	1 lot	Assorted Canon copier cartridge	1,000.00
4	1 lot	Assorted car/ UPS batteries	2,000.00
5	1 lot	Assorted fire extinguishers	1,000.00
6	1 lot	Assorted CPU's with accessories, various brands	6,000.00
7	1 lot	Assorted computer keyboards, various brands	4,000.00
8	1 lot	Assorted computer printers, various brands	5,000.00
9	1 lot	Assorted typewriters, various brands	2,000.00
10	1 lot	Assorted electric fans	1,000.00
11	1 lot	Assorted electric / manual calculators	5,000.00
12	1 lot	Assorted air-con	3,000.00
13	1 lot	Assorted UPS, various brands	1,000.00
14	1 lot	Assorted refrigerators, various brands	2,000.00
15	1 lot	Assorted microwave ovens	2,000.00
16	1 lot	Assorted office chairs, various sizes	10,000.00
17	1 lot	Assorted office desk & tables, various sizes	5,000.00
18	1 lot	Assorted office cabinets, various sizes	5,000.00
19	1 lot	Assorted wooden shelves/ cabinets/ partitions/ drawers	2,000.00
20	1 lot	Assorted stainless steel sinks/ cabinets	2,000.00
21	1 lot	Assorted office safe	1,000.00
22	1 lot	Assorted office steel/ computer tables	2,000.00
23	1 lot	Assorted stacking chairs	2,000.00
24	1 lot	Assorted wooden computer tables with curved board	1,500.00
25	1 lot	Assorted office sturdy type glass frame	10,000.00
26	4 pcs.	Assorted giant fans	800.00
27	1 lot	Assorted cabinets	1,500.00
28	1 lot	Assorted wooden chairs	1,000.00
29	1 lot	Assorted wooden tables	1,000.00
30	1 lot	Assorted kitchen	1,000.00
31	1 lot	Assorted typewriter tables	1,000.00
32	1 lot	Assorted stacking legal sized trays	1,000.00
33	1 lot	Assorted lights, various brands	1,000.00
34	1 lot	Assorted floor polisher/ vacuum cleaner	1,000.00
35	2 pcs.	Wall clock	2,000.00
36	1 pc.	Weighing scales	800.00
37	1 pc.	Air compressor	2,000.00
38	1 lot	Assorted scanners, various brands	1,500.00
39	1 lot	Assorted shredders	1,000.00
40	1 lot	Steering wheel lock	1,000.00
41	1 lot	Assorted telecommunication equipment (for machines, telephones, 2-way radio, modem, cellphones, magnetometer, pager, CCTV monitor, etc.)	1,000.00
42	1 lot	Assorted kitchen equipment, stainless steel	20,000.00
43	1 lot	Assorted scrap wood (pieces including dismantled tables, wooden shelves, cabinets)	1,000.00
44	1 lot	Assorted kitchen utensils	1,000.00
45	1 pc.	Mobile shredding machine	1,000.00
46	1 lot	Assorted mobile guard	1,000.00
47	10 pcs.	CPU Tank Balancing, various brands and specifications	15,000.00
48	1 lot	Assorted computer / scanner holder	500.00
49	1 lot	Assorted fax machines	800.00
50	1 lot	Assorted typewriter ribbons	500.00
51	1 lot	Assorted staplers/ punch	500.00
52	1 lot	Assorted projector screens/ stands	1,000.00
53	1 lot	Assorted wooden benches	500.00
54	1 lot	Assorted mirrors	500.00
55	1 lot	Assorted computer/ printer/ desk trays and other office supplies	1,000.00
56	1 lot	17 Assorted human hair sculptures with shoulder accessories	40,000.00

Located at the Machine Room, 5th floor, DBP Head Office Building

The above properties are available for inspection at DBP Subic Service, Pamilacan, Sts. 10 Subic Industrial Estate, South Superhighway, Pamilacan City from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Details, Bidding Rules and Bid Forms are available from the following:

MR. CARLOS S. GATDULA
Tel No. 818-8911
Local 2000-300

MR. ALFREDO S. RAMAN
Tel No. 818-8911
Local 2000-301

Submission of sealed bids will be on May 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., at the Property and Services Management Conference Room, 4th Floor, DBP Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City.

(Sgd.) JESUSA A. RALMIDO
Vice President & Head, PSM

(###) – April 3 & 17, 2011

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Regular Rate : P9,440 + VAT (Starting May 11, 2011)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 153
MAKATI CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO ADOPT MINOR CHILDREN

JUDY T. GARCIA, JR. AND LIBBY ANNE T. GARCIA
Petitioners

x-----x

ORDER

Before this Court is verified Petition for adoption of minors ANNE T. GARCIA, JR. and LIBBY ANNE T. GARCIA filed by petitioners JUDY T. GARCIA, JR., and ANNE ELIZABETH T. GARCIA.

The petition considered states that petitioners are spouses, Filipino citizens, and residents of the city and municipality mentioned in the caption of the petition. They state that they have been married for more than ten (10) years and that they have no children of their own. They are desirous of adopting the minors named in the caption of the petition who are their grandchildren.

Petitioners averred that they are in full possession of the said minors and are legally entitled to the custody of the said minors and have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt under the law. They have complied with all the requirements and procedures set forth in the petition and testimonies.

WHEREFORE, the petition being sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby GRANTED. Pursuant to Rule 99, Section 3 of the Rules of Court, let the petition be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Makati once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and let the hearing of the petition be set on June 15, 2011, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 153, City of Makati, Philippines, located at the 4th Floor, Hall of Justice Building, Bay Metro, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, prior to the scheduled date of hearing. Petitioners are also directed to furnish the Office of the Solicitor General, the Office of the City Prosecutor, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) with a copy of the petition and its annexes, as well as the order setting the petition for hearing.

Furthermore, let summons be served upon the Local Civil Registrar of Makati City, Philippine Statistics Office (NSO), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The Court further directs the Makati Regional Trial Court, Branch 153 to conduct a Child Case Study to be submitted to this Court before the hearing date of the petition.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, 10 March 2011.

(Sgd.) HON. ANTONIO C. REYES
Presiding Judge

(###) – April 3, 10 & 17, 2011

FOR SALE

List of Items:

2 UNITS BRAND NEW DUMP TRUCK 6 Wheels
1 UNIT BRAND NEW DUMP TRUCK 10 Wheels
1 UNIT (BRAND NEW) 350HP, 2000 PASSENGER TYPE
2 UNITS BRAND NEW JEEPNEY
AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERIES
BRAND NEW GENERATOR SET
BRAND NEW WELDING MACHINE (BRAND NEW)
BRAND NEW
10 BRAND WELDING MACHINE (BRAND NEW)
BUILDING MACHINE
1 UNIT WELL DRILLING MACHINE (BRAND NEW)
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10,000 Sqm, Bulabog Beach

For information, please e-mail:
lotsale.boracay@gmail.com

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TCT hectares, on the corner of the MacArthur Highway and Balagtas (Bocaue) proper, going to Guiguinto proper. Ideally suited for: (1) Agro-Industrial Complex, Shopping Center, (2) Low Cost Housing Subdivision, (3) Industrial Estate, Memorial Park or Cemetery.

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St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Tel: 912-1611 • 421-2040 • Fax: 912-4611

3rd Floor Bldg. B – 389 Pasgamat, Marikina City
Tel: 645-0139 • Fax: 646-4539

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg., 890 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita Manila
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Ground Floor Cherphil Bldg. 851 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. (02) 893-4878 / (02) 893-5353 Fax No. (02) 888-4280
Email: mail@hechanova.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
NIA Northside Rd., National Government Center
Quezon City 1100, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID
ACQUISITION OF SECURITY GUARD SERVICES
(BID NO. DE: 2011-01)

1. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), thru its duly-constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) will offer windows of the Authority Main, National Government Center, Quezon City, Metro Manila, on the date of **Third (3rd) BAC Meeting/Opening of Bids** for the **ACQUISITION OF SECURITY GUARD SERVICES** using the competitive Bidding under the Bid Number (BID) as indicated for purchase of Security Guard Services.

2. All prospective bidders should have completed within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, at least one (1) similar contract which is equivalent to 50% of the ABC for the said project.

3. Upon completion of the bid documents, prior to the deadline for submission, prospective bidders are qualified to the Technical Working Group and Bids and Awards Committee for Procurement Activities (BAC) for its pre-qualification. The BAC shall determine whether they are eligible to participate further in the bidding including Eligibility Checking, Site Security Compliance and Post Qualification. Only those pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to submit bids and be considered by the BAC.

4. The winning bidder in Philippine Peso shall be required to enter into a contract with the Authority and furnish a performance bond in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as "Government Procurement Reform Act" for performance security, in the form of cash, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank as enumerated in the said IRR, within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the Notice of Award, prescribed by the GPPB.

5. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare failure of bidding or not award the contract at any time prior to the contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

GENERAL CATEGORY	BRIEF	SALIENT BASIC REQUIREMENT
1. Bid Documents	BAC Secretariat PDEA Emergency Response Division (ERD) NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Quezon City	Non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 to be paid on or before the deadline of submission of bids.
2. Pre-Bid Conference (Optional)	PDEA Emergency Response Division (ERD) NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Quezon City	April 27, 2011, 10:00 AM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	PDEA Emergency Response Division (ERD) NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Quezon City	May 11, 2011, 10:00 AM

6. Interested bidders may refer to the Information Desk in the Bids Secretariat on the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Compound, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Quezon City from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM only, Monday to Friday** starting April 18, 2011 or thru **(02)929-9062** extension **113** during working days for the purchase of the said Bidding Documents.

7. PDEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any bidding process, and to award all lots or any lots part to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Atty. DEL RENON, CESO
Chief, Bids & Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
(Calabarzon)
El Amanecer Bldg. G. Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos.: (049) 545-0382

April 12, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following named employer/s have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	SPHERE PRECISION PHILIPPINES, INC. Lot 2, Phase 1, Laguna Technology Center Sta. Rosa, Laguna	Mr. Takahiro Motoyoshi Japanese	Director, Responsible for General Affairs, Human Resources Manager
2.	SYU KIM SOLAR PHILS. INC. ACR Technology Complex Brgy. Canlubang Cabuyao, Laguna	Mrs. Kyo Sun Kim aka Si Chang Korean	Director Marketing Consultant
3.	OMRON ELECTRONICS (PHILS.) CORP. Unit 2-B, Susana I, Cavite Light Industrial Park Brgy. Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Tatsuya Misumi Japanese	Operations Supervisor/Advisor
4.	Sanrio Co., Ltd. Yamato-Shi, Kanagawa-Ken Japan Sanrio Philippines, Inc. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Mr. Akira Ito Japanese	Licensing Manager Liaison and Technical Assistance
5.	VILLAR PHILIPPINES, INC. Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Alexander Tolentino Philippines	Foreign Service Manager
6.	GENERAL PAINTS MANUFACTURING CORP. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Yoshihiro Maruyama Japanese	Director President Vice-President Treasurer Assistant Treasurer General Manager Plant Manager
7.	CLOUDIE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 2, Bldg. 1, Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Wanchai Lertsiy Thai	Machinery Plant Service Manager Electrical
8.	HEICHENG PHILIPPINES CORPORATION CCID, Brgy. Langkaan Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Jen-Pao Lee Taiwanese	Assistant Vice President Director/Vice President/Vice Chairman Treasurer Assistant Vice President
9.	HUSAKEN PHILIPPINES, INC. CCID, Brgy. Langkaan Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Yuji Kawamoto Japanese	Machine Engineering Assistant

If you have any information/objection in the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ROLANDO G. MARTINEZ, MA. LEIR III
Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, placement, and employment guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) or log-on at www.phil-job.net.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Respects all Suspicious Citizens, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Perfect Apparel, Inc. (PAI) since April 2, 2009. PAI filed a criminal case against her for Qualified Theft before the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 29. On October 26, 2009, said court issued a warrant for her arrest. Anyone who can provide information to her successful and immediate arrest may call 526-66-11. A reward awaits you.

NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011 AT THE CPETS CLUBHOUSE, NAVAL STATION JOSE FRANCISCO, FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

(Sgd.) COMMO DANTE J. RUIZ AFP (RET)
President

Millennium Challenge Account - Philippines
Specific Procurement Notice
Project Management and Construction Supervision Consultant for MCA-P Road Project (PMC)

1. The Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (the "Government" or "GRP") have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in the Philippines (the "Compact") in the amount not exceeding four hundred thirty-three million nine hundred ten thousand (US $433,910,000) ("MCC Funding"). The Compact is being implemented through MCA – Philippines ("MCA Entity" or "Purchaser"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for which this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is issued. Any payments made under the proposed contract will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Compact and related documents, including restrictions on the use of MCC funding and conditions for the disbursements of MCC funding. No party other than the Government and the Purchaser shall derive any rights from the Compact or have any claim to the proceeds of MCC Funding.

2. The Millennium Challenge Account - Philippines (MCA-Philippines) hereby announces its Request for Proposals (RFP) for a national and an international consulting firm and/or joint venture to compete for the provision of professional services for the consultancy services of **Project Management and Construction Supervision Consultant for MCA-P Road Project (PMC)**. The Invitation for Proposals follows the General Procurement Notice that appeared in dgMarkets, UNDB Online and was posted on the MCA-P website **www.mca-p.ph** in April 2011.

3. MCA-Philippines is seeking the professional services of a project management and construction supervision firm to represent them and assume full responsibility for the overall management of the Road project during implementation (from design review through construction, commissioning and the defects liability period, as necessary).

4. The MCA Entity now invites proposals to provide the consultant services referenced above ("Proposals"). More details on these consultant services are provided in this Terms of Reference.

5. Consultants may associate with other consultants subject to the restrictions stated in the RFP to the form of a joint venture or to a sub-consultancy agreement acceptable to the MCA Entity, to complement their respective areas of expertise to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the assignment.

6. The consultant services will cover a 48-month period, and be divided into the following Phases: Base Period, Option Period 1, Option Period 2.

7. A consultant will be selected under the QCBS method. The evaluation procedure for which is described in Section III of the RFP in accordance with MCC Program Procurement Guidelines as amended on September 21, 2010, which is provided on the MCC website **http://www.mcc.gov/pages/business/guidelines**.

8. The RFP Document includes the following Sections:

Section I	Instructions to Consultants
Section II	Proposal Data Sheet
Section III	Qualification and Evaluation Criteria
Section IV	Technical Proposal Forms
Section V	Financial Proposal Forms
Section VI	Contract Forms
Section VII	Terms of Reference

9. Consultants interested in submitting a Proposal should register their interest by sending an e-mail giving full contact details of the Consultant to:

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Attention: Romriel S. Herrera
OIC, Bilateral Assistance Division
cc: Procurement Agent
Attention: Mr. Manmohan Rupral
Procurement Agent/Munagpa
10F EDPC Building, Department of Finance, DAP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines 1004
Tel: +632 484 3630 or +63 911 736 3463 or +632 522 0941
Email procurement@mca-p.ph with copies to romriel.herrera@mca-p.ph and procurement@gmail.com

10. A Pre-Proposal meeting will be held in the address detailed below at 10:00 hours **Manila time on May 2nd, 2011**. Attendance is strongly advised for all prospective Consultants or their representatives but is not mandatory. The address of the Pre-Proposal Meeting is:

5th Floor, PG Conference, DOF Building, BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Manila, Philippines

11. The MCA Entity will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Consultants in connection with the preparation or delivery of Proposals.

12. Please Note: All Consultants interested in this full Request for Proposals document may obtain such document from the following link: **www.mca-p.ph**. Any subsequent amendment to any and clarifications shall appear at the website mentioned before. If there are any difficulties in downloading the Request for Proposals or related documents, please send an email directly to the following address: **procurement@mca-p.ph**. Otherwise, Consultants may also obtain the Request for Proposals by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details of the Consultant to:

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Attention: Romriel S. Herrera
OIC, Bilateral Assistance Division
cc: Procurement Agent
Attention: Mr. Manmohan Rupral
Procurement Agent/Munagpa
10F EDPC Building, Department of Finance, DAP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines 1004
Tel: +632 484 3630 or +63 911 736 3463 or +632 522 0941
Email procurement@mca-p.ph with copies to romriel.herrera@mca-p.ph and procurement@gmail.com

13. The deadline for receipt of Proposals is on **June 16th, 2011 at 1300 hours local time in Manila, Philippines**. Proposals received after this time and date shall not be considered and will be returned unopened. Consultants should be aware that the Philippines' postal and courier services may require longer than expected delivery time. The address for the receipt of Proposals is:

During business hours until **June 15th, 2011** (one day before deadline) at the address given below: a time and date stamped receipt shall be provided as a proof of delivery. Please instruct your representative to get this receipt.

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Attention: Romriel S. Herrera
OIC, Bilateral Assistance Division
cc: Procurement Agent
Attention: Mr. Manmohan Rupral
Procurement Agent/Munagpa
10F EDPC Building, Department of Finance, DAP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines 1004

During the day of deadline of submission (**June 16th, 2011**) not later than **1300 hours** local time in **Manila, Philippines**, proposals must be submitted at:

5th Floor, PG, DOF Building, BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Manila, Philippines

Proposals delivered after the deadline to receive proposals shall not be accepted under any circumstance. Consultants should be aware that there could be some difference in the clocks/watches and therefore should come in time with sufficient time and not passing to deliver their proposal just before the deadline.

14. The technical proposals opening shall start precisely at **14:00 Roxas Boulevard on June 16th, 2011** at the address stated below:

5th Floor, PG Conference, DOF Building, BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd, Manila, Philippines

Rosario A. De Leon
Undersecretary
International Finance Group (IFG)
Department of Finance

MAYFAIR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

is immediately hiring:

Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

- Male or female between the ages of 38-45 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or business-related courses
- must be available 24/7 and can work in night shifts
- Proven expertise in spearheading a team that created a website and other IT projects
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- Competencies: business acumen, champions implementation of new systems and procedures, decisiveness, team orientation, excellent managerial skills and knowledge of coaching and performance
- Not a Chinese passport holder

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

- Male or female between the ages of 38-45 years old
- Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with banking experience
- Knowledge in Mandarin an advantage but not required
- Competencies: Detail consciousness, champions implementation of new systems and procedures, decisiveness, team orientation, excellent managerial skills and knowledge of coaching and performance
- Not a Chinese passport holder

Public Relations Specialist

- female between the ages of 25-40 years old
- Fluent in Mandarin and English
- Willing to frequently travel to China
- Physically attractive
- Excellent customer relations skills
- Preferably NO experience in the online gaming industry/business

Programmers

- Willing to work on a one year contractual basis and can be absorbed as regular employee if performance is good
- Male or female between the ages of 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or related courses
- Willing to work in night shifts
- Knowledge in .Net, PHP, MySQL, SQL and other software programs

Accounting Staff

- Male or female 26-37 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Must be conscientious and meticulous
- Must be willing to work in night shifts

Qualified applicants may call CHERYL V. DELOS REYES, HR Manager at 867-2052 or email your resumé to **Cheryl@bet24.com** with recent photo.

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- This involves troubleshooting, problem analysis, solution re-installation, configuration and retrofit efforts.
- Successfully works to reduce product problem resolution time and support efforts or to develop training and troubleshooting resources (e.g. presentations, diagnostics, and documentation).
- Communicates & coordinates with Emerson Business Partners and Field Service Organizations worldwide, Technology, Marketing and Manufacturing to resolve customer product problems at a local and global level, correct product issues, and gives inputs on product directions.
- Maintains ownership of all customer problems received provides timely updates and sets the escalation priority.

Requirements:

- BS/MS in Chemical, Electrical, Communications or Mechanical Engineering or other Engineering degrees.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in process control or process engineering in at least of the following process industries: hydrocarbon processing, oil & gas (on-shore/off-shore), pulp & paper, specialty chemicals, pharmaceutical, food & beverage or power generation.
- Responsibility for control system configuration, third-party equipment integration, start-up of process control products, or ongoing system maintenance support.
- Experience with DCS, PLC, or SCADA systems
- Experience in discrete and continuous or batch controls, PC based MMI, Advanced Controls, Fieldbus or field instrumentation.
- Ability to troubleshoot systems and write technical descriptions of the results.
- Knowledge of networking, SQL/VB, Visual Basic, Windows (95/98/2000/Vista/Windows 7) operating systems.
- Excellent spoken and written English; knowledge of other foreign language (Spanish or Mandarin) is an advantage.
- Willing to work on shift schedule
- Willing to travel and take on domestic/international assignments including long term (3+ months)

Applicants may send their comprehensive resume at
hr.technologytrap.emersonprocess.com

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP Philippines is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following post:

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The UN Coordination Office supervises and heads the UN Coordination Unit staff. He/She works in close collaboration with UN Country Team (UNCT) members, programme and operations teams of the Agencies, UNDAOS staff and Government officials, technical advisors and experts, multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors and civil society ensuring successful implementation of UNCT activities. The UN Coordination Office reports to the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) who heads the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and is responsible for the UN System in the country. The United Nations Resident Coordinators System encompasses all UN system entities that carry out operational activities for development in the Philippines. The UN Resident Coordinator's Office is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It is actively involved in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Summary of key functions:

1) Advise the RC and UNCT on the design of the UNDAF Action Plan for the period 2012-2018, ensuring adequate focus on key UNDAF Outcomes that are in line with national development priorities and the MDGs
2) Identify and nurture strategic alliances/partnership with the government development planning agencies, the UN Chief Executive Advisory Committee (ExCom), the Philippine Development Forum (PDF), and private sector and other donors in order to ensure effective positioning of the UN among the development partners of Philippines
3) Advise the RC on the planning and management of UN System cooperation so that country needs, including the operationalization of the UNDAF results matrix, in line with UN reform initiatives
4) Perform other duties/functions as may be required

Qualifications:

EDUCATION: Advanced university degree in development economics, political science, statistics, international development and/or management and coordination
EXPERIENCE: At least ten years work experience in international development field, with at least two years experience in this field. Experience must primarily relate to senior levels of programme management or the management of complex national/inter-sectoral plans. Good knowledge of UN systems, procedures and operational activities for development. Previous experience in UNDAF in the context of delivering as One/Initiatives will be considered a plus. Strong M&E and RBM skills are a must.
LANGUAGE REQ: Fluency in English is essential. Competency in other languages will be considered an asset.

Interested applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website: http://www.undp.org.ph/jobs and submit to:

hurecruitment.ph@undp.org
OR
Human Resources, United Nations Development Programme
20th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza
Ayala Ave., cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post title on or before 20 April 2011. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed. UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience.

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HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST: Candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development or any related field with a minimum of 3 years work experience in recruitment and selection, have thorough knowledge in performance management, and basic knowledge in labor relations law. Must have good written and verbal communication skills, good work ethics, and strong organizational skills.

BOOKKEEPER: Candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 2 years work experience as bookkeeper (preferably in construction or similar industry), competent in records management, good written and verbal communication skills, and competent in using accounting software. Must have strong work ethics and extremely organized.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE / RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST: Candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 2 years work experience in handling payables & receivables, and competent in using accounting software. Must have strong work ethics and detail-oriented.

Send a letter of application and CV with recent passport size photograph thru email **prismodelbuilders@gmail.com** by April 18, 2011.

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